

144 feared dead as Boeing crashes on mountain

By Harvey Elliott and
Our Foreign Staff in London
and Martha de la Cal in Lisbon

All 144 passengers and crew on board an American Boeing 707 were feared dead after the jet crashed into a mountain in the Azores about 1,200 miles from the Portuguese coast yesterday.

The US-chartered airliner was en route from Bergamo in Italy to the Dominican Republic when it crashed on the island of Santa Maria trying to land for a technical stop-over, official Portuguese sources said.

An official from the island rescue services in Angra do Heroismo on the island of Terceira said the aircraft burst into flames after crashing into the 1794ft Pico Alto mountain four miles from the island's airport.

The Portuguese Lusa news agency quoted a spokesman for the Azores civil protection service as saying that there

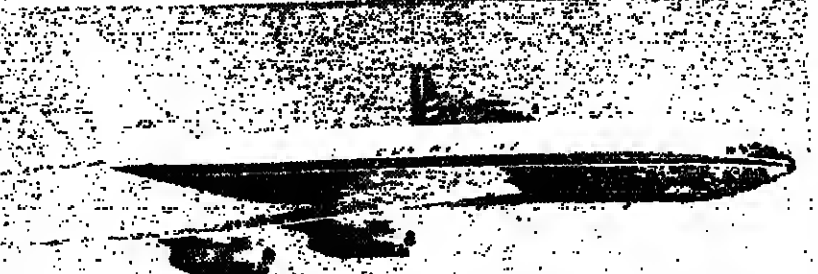
appeared to be no survivors. Fifty badly mutilated bodies were found late Wednesday afternoon by rescue workers and many more, also badly mutilated, were seen to be lying around the area. Rescue operations were becoming difficult because of dense fog.

In Italy, a spokesman at Bergamo airport said that all 137 passengers were Italian and the plane's seven-man crew was American.

The 707 was one of two owned by the Independent Air Corporation, a Tennessee-based charter airline which has two Boeing 707s, picking up business wherever they can around the world.

The two jets have a long history and were first delivered to TWA in 1968. Since then they have passed through a number of hands and have recently been "hush-kitted" to make them suitable for flying into European and US airports in with tight noise restrictions.

Local government sources on the



The Boeing 707: American-built jet that revolutionized air travel for millions

nearby island of Sao Miguel said the pilot had asked the airport to prepare for an emergency landing shortly before the crash. Rescue teams were said to be searching over a wide area for fragments of the plane.

Portuguese naval vessels with medical teams were steaming to the island, one of

can Republic, but he had no details on the accident.

The US armed forces have a big air and naval base at Lajes on the island of Terceira.

The last major Portuguese air accident occurred 12 years ago when a plane crashed on the island of Madeira, about 500 miles south-west of Lisbon, and killed more than 120 people.

If all 144 passengers and crew are confirmed dead, yesterday's crash would be the worst air disaster since December 21, when a Pao Am Boeing 747 was blown up over Scotland, killing 259 passengers and crew and 11 people on the ground.

The last Boeing 707 rolled off the production line at Boeing's Renton works near Seattle in 1977 after a total of 962 had been delivered to 74 customers world-wide.

The four-engined jet revolutionized air travel and opened up long-range, fast

services for millions of passengers. The first 707 was produced in 1957 and was based on a military jet transport known as the Dash 80, although it weighs more.

Throughout the 1960s and 1970s it became the workhorse of the world's airlines and a number of different versions were produced. The aircraft which crashed was a -320B which was built to serve very long range routes and was fitted with turbofan engines.

As modern techniques cut both the cost of jet operations by introducing more efficient engines and lighter materials were used in the fuselage construction, airlines began to sell their old 707s on the second hand market and by the early 1980s most of the larger, scheduled airlines had disposed of their old fleet.

Today about 200 of the 902 built are still operating, mainly for small charter or cargo airlines.

Barely-concealed contempt draws gasps from MPs

Currie stands defiant before egg committee

By Martin Fletcher and Philip Webster

Mrs. Edwina Currie staged a display of defiance when she finally appeared before the Commons Agriculture Committee last night and said nothing to help its emergency inquiry into the salmonella in eggs controversy which she helped trigger.

The former junior health minister treated the committee with a barely concealed contempt that drew gasps

from the MPs, journalists and members of the public who packed the Grand Committee Room which had been commandeered for the occasion because of the massive public interest.

It was the first time that Mrs Currie had said anything about the affair since her

resignation on December 17. She had had to be hauled before the committee by the threat of the indignity of a full Commons vote which would have compelled her to appear.

But when the first question was put, she insisted on her right to make an opening statement and declared that she was there out of courtesy, not "duress". Thereafter, during 30 minutes of questioning she made a series of stonewalling replies which seemed to MPs to be designed to justify her earlier refusals to attend.

Mrs Currie, a lonely figure before the committee, had lost none of her drawing power. Queues began forming outside the committee room two hours before the session started and further crowds had gathered outside the Commons Members' Entrance to see her arrive.

She had been preceded in giving evidence by Mr John MacGregor, Minister of Agriculture, his deputy Mr Richard Ryder, and Mr Kenneth Clarke, the Secretary of State for Health.

Although Mrs Currie's remarks added little to the sum of knowledge about the salmonella-in-eggs affair, new light was thrown on the incident when it was disclosed that the egg industry had reacted angrily when told by Mr Ryder to put its house in order.

Two weeks before Mrs Currie's celebrated remark that "most" egg production in this country was now infected with salmonella.

Mr Ryder told the committee that many people in the industry felt he should have cleared with them the text of a press release he had issued after his meeting with them on November 23. He had explained to them afterwards that he was not in the habit of a minister of clearing press

releases "with any vested interests". The disclosure of tensions between the ministry and the industry over the salmonella issue came amid confirmation to the committee that the ministry was drawing up tough measures to tackle salmonella several weeks before Mrs Currie's remarks, made in a television interview on December 3.

This counters the impression given that the ministry was only galvanised into action by the furore created by Mrs Currie. Mr MacGregor and Mr Ryder were drawing up more than a dozen measures to deal with the issue in November.

The Times has learnt that the British Poultry Federation, which was represented at the meeting on November 23, seriously threatened to pass a vote of no confidence in Mr Ryder, whose responsibilities cover food.

Mr Clarke was repeatedly questioned on why he had not asked Mrs Currie to clarify her disputed statement.

He revealed that he had advised Mrs Currie to say nothing on the following Monday so that media attention would concentrate on the expert remarks of Sir Donald Acheson, the Chief Medical Officer, which were designed to put the salmonella threat into perspective.

However, on the Tuesday, Mrs Currie had unexpectedly been "waylaid" by journalists when giving an interview on alcohol abuse and asked about her remarks. When she replied that she stood by her original statement, she had "closed the door" on the possibility of a retraction.

That's not like her...
Edwina Currie
SAY NOTHING
TODAY

Secret report on poultry infection

By Sheila Gunn
Political Staff

Mrs Edwina Currie's fears over salmonella among egg-laying hens are borne out by a secret report sent to Ministers this week saying there may be up to two million infections a year in England and Wales.

The report disputes previous assurances from ministers about measures to control the spread of salmonella enteritidis because, it says, too little is known about the outbreaks.

It says there is "a new salmonella epidemic of considerable proportions" and calls for priority to be given to finding out which flocks are infected. It wants a cheap test to be developed urgently to check the infection.

Twelve officials from the Ministry of Agriculture, the Department of Health and the British Egg Industry Council who drew up the report focus on the lack of scientific evidence about the extent and cause of the disease.

Although a copy of the report has been obtained by The Times, it has not been made public. The working group was set up in August last year after a spate of outbreaks.

In 1987 the number of outbreaks in all strains rose to 20,532. Officials say that in the US similar figures are multiplied by 100 to give a more accurate picture.

"This implies that there may currently be up to two million salmonella infections per year in England and Wales."

The report concludes: "It is unrealistic to expect the public at large to stop consuming raw eggs, to desist from consuming the large range of dishes containing eggs which receive little or no heat treatment; and always follow the stringent cooking procedures recommended to destroy salmonella in eggs."

It said it was essential that a long-term solution to the

Huge exodus from Whitehall

By David Walker, Public Administration Correspondent

The Government will today announce the biggest programme of Civil Service dispersal outside London since the early 1970s. It will eventually reduce Whitehall to a tenth of its present size.

Mr Peter Brooke, the Paymaster General, will report the results of a year-long study by Treasury officials of the prospects for a move. He will style it a "rolling programme" in

which individual ministers will make their own decisions.

But the concept is that within a decade up to 90 per cent of the 115,000 Civil Servants in greater London will have moved.

Total Civil Service numbers, excluding manual workers, are about 580,000. The biggest movements will be of officials in the Department of Social Security, the Inland

Revenue and the Department of Employment.

The DSS recently announced its scheme for drastically slimming down the office staff in the capital by responding to claimants' questions through a computer link with its offices in the North and Scotland.

Whitehall sources have suggested Mr Brooke will give

Continued on page 24, col 5



Mrs Currie leaving her London home for the Commons.

Private sector crime-fighting scheme backed

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

A private sector initiative to tackle crime in Britain's towns and cities, with companies funding research and co-ordinating the crime fighting activities of police and local authorities, is being backed by the Government.

A scheme is about to be launched in Luton, Bedfordshire with Vauxhall, one of the biggest employers in the area, taking the lead in raising funds for a three-year project to co-ordinate crime prevention and focus on problems which most worry local people.

Three other schemes are close to being announced, and a further dozen could be ready by the end of the year.

Eventually it is hoped to have a network of "privatized" crime prevention centres across the country in which the private sector takes the lead not only in finding the resources, but also contributing ideas and staff to developing plans to tackle crime.

Behind the plans is the government-backed organization Crime Concern, set up last year under Mr Steven Norris, recently elected as the

Conservative MP for Epping Forest.

Crime Concern estimates that the appointment of a special co-ordinator in each area, backed by support staff, will cost £35,000-£50,000 a year. The co-ordinators would be responsible for ensuring that the agencies involved in crime prevention and the often limited resources available for it were directed at the areas which most bother local communities.

Since Crime Concern was formed with a £500,000 government grant last year it has been talking to private industry about the Government's new emphasis on crime prevention.

Mr Norris said yesterday: "Firms are beginning to realize there could be rewards for them in exciting, imaginative schemes... There is growing realization in the police that prevention is better than cure and represents significantly better value for money."

At Luton police and the town council are closely involved. Continued on page 24, col 7

Shares reach new high

Share prices reached a new post-crash high but failed to stay above the 2,100 level. The FT-SE 100 index finished 23.4 up at 2,096.2, having touched 2,106.1 at one point.

Another record-breaking run overnight in Tokyo and

strong gains on Wall Street set the pace for London trading. Market-makers were again caught in a massive bear squeeze, reinforcing claims that some firms have suffered big losses since the start of the new year rally.

Market report, page 28

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Post Code

ON SATURDAY IN COLOUR

The Italian job

It has been called the fastest three-hour movie in history. But Francis Coppola nearly turned down the offer to make his Mafia classic. On Saturday The Times looks at the man who gave birth to The Godfather.

TODAY

As part of Museums Year, The Times this week launches a unique Passport Scheme. Readers are offered a museum passport and guide for a privilege price of £3.95 (normal price £6.95), entitling them to concessions at 750 museums around the country. Full details, page 14.

WIN £132,000

There were no winners of yesterday's £4,000 daily prize. The Portfolio Accumulator rises to £132,000. Prices: page 31.

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King's Cross fireman in test case over Aids fear

By Frances Gibb
Legal Affairs Correspondent

An injured fireman who lifted an HIV-positive victim from the King's Cross fire, is planning to sue London Underground over his fear of having contracted Aids. His is one of two test cases to emerge from the tragedy.

The other involves the widow of a firefighter, Mr Colin Townsley, who died leading the rescue of trapped passengers. This case is expected to produce the first court claim in this country for "preimpact terror" - the fear experienced by her husband when he knew he was going to die.

Both cases break new ground. That involving the fear of Aids is thought to be the first in which a person has sought compensation for the fear of

contracting a fatal disease rather than actually contracting it. And while "preimpact terror" has been part of negotiated settlements arising out of disasters no such award has ever been made by the courts.

Mr Andrew Dinsmore, believed to be the only solicitor who has begun proceedings over claims arising from the fire, said that the courts had acknowledged the concept of "nervous shock" directly caused by witnessing a horrendous event.

"But we are trying to push beyond that and to extend the grounds."

"The fear of knowing that you are going to die is a horrendous fear; and a person would want a lot of money for it."

The claims are among a number

being pursued by Mr Dinsmore with the backing of either the Fire Brigades Union or, in one case, the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen, after the breakdown of negotiations with London Regional Transport.

Mrs Townsley's claim will be given an April hearing date at which her amount of compensation will be decided. So far Mrs Townsley has been offered an interim payment of £20,000.

But Mr Dinsmore said that, whatever she was awarded, it would be less than the amount of £300,000 reputed to have been collected by the two London Transport officials who resigned after the fire.

He added that because the case had

not been settled, Mrs Townsley would now be put through the trauma of a court appearance, having to give details of her domestic situation when her husband was alive and hear details of the circumstances of his death.

He accepted he had not exchanged medical evidence as the court rules provided. But he said that no medical evidence was needed in the case of a death; and in the cases of six injured firemen he said he would supply his medical evidence when he received that from London Underground.

A hearing date is still awaited over the claims lodged by the six firemen for injuries suffered.

About 75 other claims, arising out of the fire in November 1987, are thought still to be outstanding.

NEWS ROUNDUP

Another 550 pit jobs to be axed

British Coal yesterday announced that 550 jobs are to go at Colgrave Colliery near Nottingham because of heavy losses. The number of jobs to be reduced represents half the workforce and is a further blow to the Union of Democratic Mineworkers, which is fighting a campaign to keep another mine open. The coal board review which put the Colgrave jobs in jeopardy has already led to the proposed shutdown of Blidworth Colliery, near Mansfield, with the loss of 770 jobs, and the streamlining of Gedling Colliery, near Nottingham, where there will be 450 redundancies.

Last week British Coal said it wanted to shut Barnburgh, near Doncaster, and a nearby coal preparation plant with the loss of 750 jobs.

More than 600 workers at the Sizewell B nuclear power construction site in Suffolk went on a strike yesterday in protest at the laying off of 100 workers for refusing to accept a shift system.

Minister's romance

Mr Pat Gallagher, a junior minister in the Marine Department of the Irish government, yesterday confirmed that he is romantically involved with Ann Gillespie, a convicted IRA terrorist who served nine years in a British prison. She was convicted with her sister Evelyn in 1974 of conspiring to cause explosions in Manchester and of possessing bomb-making equipment. They were sentenced to 14 years' imprisonment. Mr Gallagher, aged 40, a Fianna Fail MP, said: "We have done nothing wrong or anything to be ashamed of. She is a very nice girl and has suffered enough and deserves the chance of a normal life."

Forces home scheme

A mortgage finance package for members of the armed forces has been launched with the support of the Ministry of Defence. The package, designed by Gardiner & Theobald Financial Services, is one of three given the blessing of the ministry in its advice to personnel on buying homes. Under the scheme, 100 per cent mortgages are available at three times salary up to a purchase price of £90,000. An estimated year's rental income can be included provided the owner takes out a managed letting protection policy.

Record art pledge

The Royal Academy of Arts will disclose the biggest single sponsorship for an exhibition in Britain when it announces today that £450,000 has been pledged for the Royal Treasures of Sweden 1500-1700, to be opened by Queen Silvia of Sweden on March 15. The record was held by the Royal Academy after Lloyd's Bank underwrote the Age of Chivalry exhibition for £400,000 last year. The Swedish exhibition, sponsored by Gamlestaden, the financial services company, will be on show at Burlington House, Piccadilly, central London, until June 18.

Bank union fight

The TUC was last night urged to back a campaign aimed at restoring negotiating rights to the Manufacturing, Science and Finance Union after the Midland Bank decided that it would no longer recognize its right to negotiate on terms and conditions. The union is also to ask the TUC to ensure that no inter-union membership breaks out in the financial services sector. The bank said the union was not a credible participant in collective bargaining as it represented only about 7 per cent of the bank's staff.

Botham assault trial

The England cricketer Ian Botham is to stand trial, accused of head-butting a hotel security man in the face after a dispute over a taxi. Mr Botham had been questioned by police but was released without charge after the alleged incident at the Sheraton Park Hotel, in Knightsbridge, west London, just before Christmas. However, Mr Kevin Batten, of Yateley, Surrey, has been granted a summons for common assault against the cricketer.

Privatization crisis after EEC quality ruling
Ridley 'must win' in water battle

By David Walker
Public Administration
Correspondent

Privatization of the water industry could be thrown into chaos by the European Commission's insistence on water quality standards being reached, according to leaked documents disclosed yesterday.

Minutes of a meeting of the "privatization committee" at the Water Authorities' Association say agreement between the Department of the Environment and the European Commission is vital if privatization is to proceed.

The minutes say: "DoE is taking the lead on this and they must succeed." (italics in the original.)

The minutes were made public by Friends of the Earth, whose spokesman, Mr Andrew Lees, said that the water authorities and the Government had entered a "shabby conspiracy" to block the European rules on improving drinking water. The minutes also disclose the water authorities' anxiety that the sale of the 10 English and Welsh water authorities will be disrupted because of the priority the Government gives to electricity. Water, the minutes say, "is politically less popular, and therefore needs to get in early to avoid danger of being ditched as the electricity floats begin or as the 1991-92 election gets nearer."

On Tuesday the European Commission gave Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment, an ultimatum over his attempt to exempt the water authorities temporarily from a directive requiring British water to be brought up to the commission's standards of water quality. Either Mr Ridley drops the clauses in the water privatization Bill allowing him to make the exemptions or he will face a suit before the European Court of Justice.

The Department of the Environment said that negotiations with Brussels were still going on and that Mr Ridley would not act except in accordance with European law. The environment secretary has been anxious to delay imposing the European standards on the water authorities since meeting them would entail massive new investment, which would jeopardize the sell-off. The leaked minutes indicate that the water authorities are seeking a guarantee from the Government that the cost of any new work to meet exacting water standards undertaken after privatization would be passed on in its entirety to householders. Other leaked documents from the Water Authorities Association disclose its ambitious plans to convince the public that water quality is adequate and that privatization will be beneficial. The association has been thinking of a £30 million campaign, involving full-page newspaper advertisements, sending propaganda to schools and emphasizing the "good news" of privatization in communications with water industry personnel.

water industry personnel.

A water board last night confirmed its controversial price increase, the highest in the country. Yorkshire Water Authority officials admitted consumer consultative committees were concerned about the new charges, which will average 13.1 per cent but they stressed they had no alternative to the April increases.

"Weak" consumers can only be protected against powerful water, gas and electricity monopolies if the Government appoints strong regulators to oversee the effects of privatization, the National Consumers Council says in report published today.

After a critical review of consumers' experience at the hands of British Gas, British Telecom and the British Airports Authority, the council calls for regulatory control of both quality of service and prices.

In the absence of competition (Stationery Office, £9.95)

Dr David Owen yesterday held out an olive branch to the other opposition parties while campaigning for the SDP candidate in the Richmond by-election.

Pointedly not ruling out the possibility of his rejoining a remodelled Labour Party if it continued down the path of moderation, he also floated the possibility of a pre-election pact embracing both Labour and the Democrats.

He said that might lead to SDP candidates standing down where other opposition parties stood a better chance of beating the Conservatives — or vice-versa.

Dr Owen added that the June Euro-elections offered an opportunity to put this thinking into practice. The clear implication was that in return for Labour adopting a "sensible programme" he would endorse it and so enhance its credibility, particularly in key Tory/Labour marginals. However, he said Labour had a long way to go before adopting policies he could support.

Not surprisingly, given the passions generated by the contest for the North Yorkshire seat, where the Tories are defending a 19,576 majority, there were few signs yesterday of Dr Owen's overtures striking a chord in rival camps.

Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Wales, forecast yesterday that Labour's traditional grip on the valleys of Wales was set to end because of the Conservative-inspired boost in the economy.

Speaking at Pontypridd, Mid Glamorgan, in the run-up to the Pontypridd by-election, he said £45 million of investment in five years had brought 3,100 jobs to the area.

The Welsh nationalists brought in Mr Jim Sillars, the surprise Scottish nationalist victor at Glasgow Govan. Like the SNP at Govan last November, Plaid Cymru is starting in fourth place.

However, Dr Kim Howells the Labour candidate and favorite, dismissed the Govan factor. "If anything, support is moving our way," he said.

Mr Wood told the committee on January 24 that the complexity of EEC legislation was "an encouragement to fraud". He called for steps to make it simpler to understand and to administer. Complexity was enabling offenders to

Election pact is floated by Owen

By Nicholas Wood
Political Correspondent

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Shipyard dismisses 1,200 men

By Peter Davenport
and Tim Jones

Twelve hundred shipyard workers on the Tyne were dismissed yesterday after breaking a no-strike agreement that was crucial to their company winning a £30 million North Sea oil contract. They walked out of Charlton Leslie Offshore Ltd after management refused their demand for bonuses for competing the order on time.

The order, for converting a semi-submersible vessel into a floating production system, had been agreed with Amerasia Hess, an American oil company, because of the no-strike clause, thought to be unique in the shipbuilding industry.

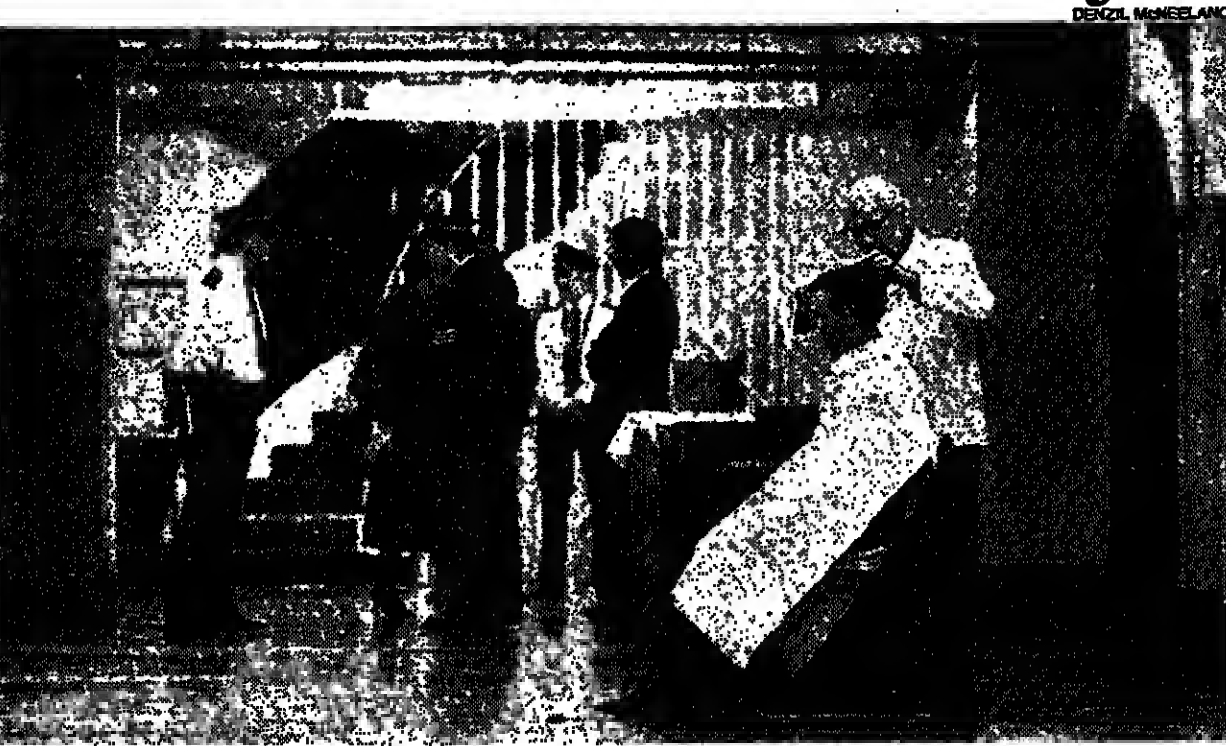
As the April completion date drew closer, the company was affected by at least five walk-outs by members of the electricians' union (EETPU) and the GMB general union.

After the latest walk-out, over the demand for bonus payments, Mr Peter Wilson, the company's chief executive, said: "The no-strike deal was a fundamental part of their contract of employment. We did not dismiss the men, they dismissed themselves."

"We have been plagued by unofficial strikes lasting from a couple of hours to a couple of days. They were after something not provided for by their conditions of contract and we are not prepared to give it to them."

Last night, unions and management were meeting to try to resolve the dispute.

Police set for a break from jail



Policemen attending to their duties at Wandsworth jail in London for the last time yesterday. The 282 prison officers who were suspended return to work today after voting unanimously to end their dispute over shift patterns and manning levels.

Drug barons 'benefit from EEC fraud'

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

The head of the office set up last April to combine the skills of the police, lawyers and accountants in combating serious fraud has confirmed ministerial fears that drug barons and terrorists are among those benefiting fraudulently from EEC agricultural subsidies.

Most of the 7,000 Customs and Excise staff in Britain involved in overseeing EEC agricultural policy are being given special training in recognizing and preventing EEC fraud. Mr John Wood,

director of the serious fraud office, has told the budget committee of the European Parliament: "We believe that money obtained by fraud is being used to finance the drug trade and to buy arms for terrorists. We do not want 1992 to encourage this."

Mr Wood told the committee on January 24 that the complexity of EEC legislation was "an encouragement to fraud". He called for steps to make it simpler to understand and to administer. Complexity was enabling offenders to

use the excuse that they did not understand the regulations, Mr Wood said. "It is a mistake to believe that criminals in this field are not expert. Many of them are and they are advised by greater experts with legal and accountancy training." Their efforts were guided by "professional loophole finders", he said.

Mr Wood said his department co-operated in investigating serious cases. Customs and Excise training in EEC law started last year.

Neddy post

Miss Brenda Dean, leader of the print union Sogal, yesterday became the first woman to be appointed by the TUC to the National Economic Development Council.

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Rapist gets 12 years for brutal attack on mother and teenager

A rapist who "had his best night's sleep" for several months after fulfilling his "fantasy" by attacking a mother and daughter was jailed for 12 years yesterday.

Charles Hawkins, aged 28, a master sergeant at the Royal Air Force base in Suffolk, told police after his arrest that he "felt high" after raping the mother, aged 46, and sexually assaulting her daughter, aged 14.

"I was satisfied. Something rotten and twisted inside me had gone. I had just got a monkey off my back," he said.

Hawkins, who later sought psychiatric help and admitted feeling ashamed about his attack, admitted rape, indecent assault, aggravated burglary, the robbery of £55 and attempted sexual assault on Melton, Suffolk, on October 19 last year. Sentences for each will run consecutively.

Dubbed the "Monster of Melton" by residents, he kept a scrapbook of pornography and a type-written account of his fantasies. Bury St Edmunds Crown Court was told.

"These were sentences of a sordid and sinister kind — not about love and gentleness but about the domination and defilement of women and young girls," Mr Graham Parkins, counsel for the prosecution, said.

"It was almost a script for his attack on these women, with incidents of tying up, binding and gagging, cutting off their clothes with a knife and taking pictures with an Instamatic camera. All these hidden features came together the night he broke into their home."

Hawkins, the court was

told, nursed an obsession to dominate and degrade women. After his arrest, he told police that he enjoyed prowling around at night as a "release" from the pressures of work at his air base.

Defendants believe he spent days stalking his victims before breaking into their home, a woolly hat pulled over his face to hide his features.

After raping, assaulting and taking indecent photographs of the gagged and bound mother, he forced her daughter into a bedroom at knifepoint and committed a serious sexual offence. As he left the house, he told the mother: "She is still alive and still a virgin. But I'll be back."

Mr Gareth Haworth, counsel for the defence, told the court: "He was in the grip of a powerful and sadistic obsession — a fantasy that he turned into reality."

"His offences were precipitated by stress. He was one of the youngest master sergeants in the United States Air Force and an increasing amount of responsibility was being put on his shoulders."

"He led the honour guard at the base and was in charge of all police and security matters."

Colleagues at the base were said to be "astonished" when he was arrested two weeks after the attack.

His wife described him as a gentle, undemanding and easy-going man who was a loving father to their two young children.

Although nothing in his past suggested a brutal character, detectives were convinced, after the attack that the man they were seeking lived locally

and knew the area. Within hours they had obtained a detailed list of everyone seen in the village at the time of the rape, locals and strangers alike.

More than 200 people volunteered information and thousands of reports were fed into a computer for analysis.

Soon Hawkins's name appeared on the screen, with the telling fact that his car had been parked near the scene of the crime at the relevant time.

Detectives interviewed him at the base, where he admitted the attack almost at once.

Mr Justice Allott told him: "I accept that you led a blameless and distinguished life until that evening. But what you did was planned and scripted in these awful pieces of writing I have had to wade through."

"You have ruined the lives of these two women, who are both still suffering from the psychiatric aftermath of the attack."

Det Sgt David Moss, deputy head of Suffolk CID, said yesterday: "There is a definite feeling of relief in the village. Until today, no one could be really sure. Now they know we have got the right man and they can begin to feel secure again."

He praised the two victims, who were in court to see their attacker unmasked and sentenced. "They reacted to a sickening ordeal with outstanding strength and bravery. They are still being counselled and they will carry the mental scars for the rest of their lives."

Hawkins is expected to serve his sentence in this country.

Heath backs rail protest

ALAN WELLER



Mr Edward Heath, the former Prime Minister, supporting more than 1,000 people protesting at Westminster yesterday against plans for a rail link from the Channel tunnel through Kent and south-east London. He criticised British Rail for failing to take sufficient account of the environmental impact. The MP for Old Bexley and Sidcup was given a petition carrying 30,000 signatures.

Letters, page 17

Suspect accuses police of trying to murder him

By Michael Horsnell

A man accused of a post office robbery claimed yesterday that police tried to kill him because of the help he had given detectives pursuing a national police anti-corruption investigation.

Paul Cannon, aged 40, said he was the victim of a police conspiracy because he made enemies when he "fingered" officers in Operation Countryman.

Mr Cannon is facing trial at Bristol Crown Court for attempted robbery at a sub-post office in Aldershot, Hampshire, in 1985.

The attempt was foiled because a postman locked a security door on bags containing money.

Within hours, police tried to arrest Mr Cannon after his black B-registered Lancia Delta Turbo was seen racing from the scene, the court was told.

Armed officers were sent to his home in Exmouth, Devon, but Mr Cannon fled, claiming they shot through his windscreen as he got away.

He told the court yesterday that he was worried that they were enemies from his past.

He left the country, living in Spain and France, and was not charged with the attempted robbery until November 1987.

Yesterday he said he had been given a new identity to protect him after his part in Operation Countryman.

He said he was called Roger Dennhardt until his release from prison in 1981. He was then taken to Falmouth, Cornwall, where he started a new life as Paul Cannon.

He told the court that his

past was known to officers when they tried to stop him for questioning about the post office charge.

"I was a man who gave evidence to a major inquiry into bent policing. This is a police conspiracy to cover up the shooting of my vehicle and me on the night of April 15."

Supt John Essery of Devon and Cornwall police, who led the Exmouth inquiry, denied Mr Cannon's accusation.

"There was no conspiracy. I was aware of or involved in," he said. "The constabulary did not know of your presence at Falmouth or Exmouth other than your name of Paul Cannon."

Mr Cannon denies attempted robbery. The case continues today.

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A special free telephone hotline has been set up to handle student queries about Presspass.

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Girl, 14, raped at knifepoint

A rapist abducted a girl aged 14 at knifepoint, drove her for two miles and tried to strangle and batter her to death.

In a separate attack a man brandishing a shotgun tied up a courting couple and raped the woman, aged 18.

The schoolgirl, from Abingdon, Oxfordshire, was grabbed as she walked home along a footpath after spending Tuesday evening with a girlfriend.

She noticed a red car parked near John Morris Road. The bonnet was raised.

As the girl walked past, a man approached her,

wielding a knife, and forced her into his car. He then drove to Oday Hill, near Sutton Courtenay, and pulled on to waste ground.

Supt Alan Davis of Abingdon police said: "The girl was raped in the car and as she attempted to struggle, the man punched her repeatedly in the head."

"The man tried to strangle her" before, using a heavy instrument to batter her head, causing severe scalp wounds.

He drove off and she staggered to a nearby house. The girl was detained yesterday in the John Radcliffe Hospital,

Oxford. The rapist was 5ft 8ins to 6ft tall with dark hair. He was wearing jeans and a blue ski jacket which had white arms and red patches.

The gunpoint rape took place in a car park popular with courting couples in Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

The hooded rapist, who was wearing a camouflage jacket and carrying a single-barrelled shotgun, opened the car door and dragged out the couple.

Police have set up a hotline on 0892 511282 for information about the attack at midnight on Tuesday.

Trustees of kidney centre questioned

By David Sapstead

Trustees of the National Kidney Centre were yesterday questioned by the Barnet Health Authority team investigating claims that the charity had become involved in the sale of kidneys.

The Charity Commission is also expected to look at the running of the centre in Finchley, north London, which offers dialysis to wealthy foreigners awaiting kidney transplants. Dr Raymond Crockett, medical director of the centre, has been reported to the General Medical Council over allegations of his involvement.

Mr Ken Westall, the centre's administrative director, was dismissed at the weekend by the trustees after he admitted writing an untruthful letter to ease the passage through UK immigration of one of four Turks who sold their kidneys for up to £3,265 after operations at the Humana Wellington hospital in north London last year.

At the time Mr Westall was not employed at the centre. Both he and Dr Crockett have denied any knowing involvement in the sale.

The trustees are looking at

the financing of the centre, which has recorded an operating loss for several years.

The centre's role has changed dramatically since it was set up in 1966 as a charitable trust to offer dialysis to Britons unable to get treatment from the National Health Service. It also aimed to undertake research and to raise funds to sponsor projects elsewhere. No such work has been undertaken in recent years.

The original backers, a wealthy businessman and a former mayor of Finchley, are now dead. The first medical director was Dr Stanley Shalton, formerly of the Royal Free Hospital and a pioneer in dialysis. He left in 1978.

Dr Crockett, who had worked under him as a registrar at the Royal Free, took over as medical director.

The trustees are said to be alarmed by reports that Dr Crockett had refused the Barnet inquiry team access to papers relating to the centre.

Any formal inquiry by the Charity Commissioners is expected to concentrate on the continuing validity of the centre's status as a charity.

Mother's killer hunted

By Mark Ellis

A killer on a bicycle who bludgeoned and stabbed to death a young mother was on the run last night, putting women alone in Green Belt commuter villages in fear of their lives.

Police believe Mrs Julia Barrett, aged 31, let her killer into her luxury home in the Chiltern Hills village of St Leonard's in Buckinghamshire shortly before she was due to collect her son Simon, aged eight, and her daughter Rebecca, aged five, from school.

Anxious teachers called her husband, Mr Graham Barrett, a builder at work in London, and he telephoned a neighbour, who discovered Mrs Barrett's battered body in a downstairs room of the couple's newly renovated home in Gilberts Hill.

Her attacker fled in her blue Ford Fiesta, which was later found abandoned.

Police are working on a theory that a white mountain cycle, stolen the day before the murder in Chessham and found in woodland only 300 yards from the house, is linked with the murder.

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Address:

Number of bedrooms:

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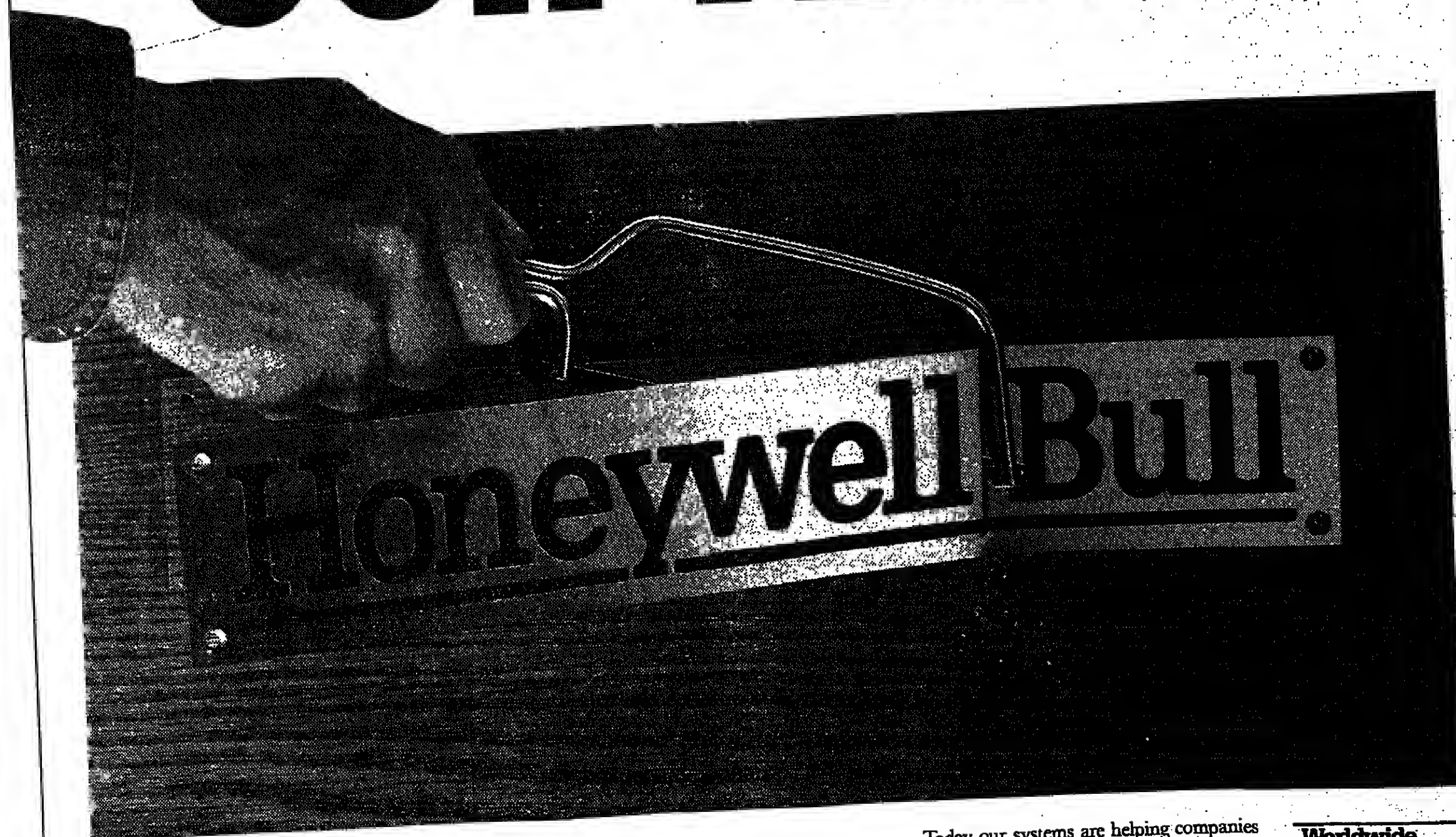
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مكذبات الأما

MoD rejects request for details of ex-employees

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

The Ministry of Defence angered a senior Commons select committee yesterday by rejecting its request for details of all senior personnel who have left to take up jobs with private defence contractors.

Members of the Tory-controlled defence committee may demand a list of every senior Civil Servant and serviceman who has left the ministry in the past five years. It would then use its unqualified powers to demand information, either in writing or verbally, from everyone on the list.

To ensure that no corruption or impropriety had been involved, MPs would want to know whether those concerned were employed by defence contractors and in what capacity, whether they had had contractual dealings with their new employer while at the Ministry of Defence, and whether the Government had imposed any conditions on their new appointment.

The committee, concerned that all business appointments should be seen to be above board, has over several years made repeated requests to the ministry for such information.

It has described as "disturbing" the limited statistics the ministry has provided. These show that senior defence staff account for a growing and disproportionate number of applications to take up outside appointments which are referred to the Prime Minister's Advisory Committee, and that restrictions or conditions are seldom imposed, even where the applicant and his prospective employer had had direct contractual dealings.

The committee maintains that complete openness about business appointments is vital if public suspicion is not to be aroused when those responsible for awarding multi-million-pound government contracts to defence contractors subsequently went to work for them.

It has argued that the public interest had to take priority

over an individual's right to confidentiality. In the latest of a series of increasingly threatening reports, the committee reminded the Ministry of Defence last July that it had power to summon every former ministry employee. It concluded: "We hope that we will not find it necessary to take a course so wearisome to all concerned."

In an uncompromising reply yesterday the ministry rejected the committee's arguments and refused even to give the committee information it wanted in confidence.

The ministry said it was "acutely conscious" of the need to avoid corruption or impropriety, but insisted the Prime Minister's Advisory Committee was an independent body which provided a rigorous scrutiny of applications to take up business appointments.

It said that to make details of the applications public would destroy the principle of confidentiality on which the whole system depended, and that its employees had to be treated in the same way as all other Crown servants.

The ministry's reply would almost certainly have been drawn up in conjunction with the Cabinet Office.

Members of the committee were angered not just by the contents of the reply but also by the fact that they were not sent copies before it was made available generally.

Mr Bruce George, a senior Labour member, said: "Many on the committee will be very angry not just at the discourtesy but at the outright rejection of a report unanimously approved by an all-party committee which was putting forward eminently sensible suggestions to protect the public interest."

Mr John Cartwright, SDP defence spokesman and a member of the committee, said he was "concerned that this indicates a growing unwillingness to co-operate on the part of the MoD."

Liquid assets to tempt the discerning historian

By Simon Tait, Arts Correspondent

There are few museums which include a trip to a public house in their tour, but then there are few which have a pub as part of the museum. Every tour of Harvey's Wine Museum in Bristol ends in the Unicorn Inn, a recreated eighteenth-century tavern set in the original wine cellars used by the company from its inception in 1796.

Mrs Trudy Spencer, a tour guide, invites 20,000 visitors a year to sample some of the company's sherries.

The Unicorn - named after Bristol's emblematic beast - has been a feature of the wine museum for more than 30 years, gradually being built from items acquired by the company. Wall panelling was rescued from



Mrs Trudy Spencer, tour guide at Harvey's Wine Museum in Bristol, checks some of the exhibits she asks 20,000 visitors a year to taste.



a house near by; the inglenook fireplace is from another, and the spittoon, a prerequisite in every dockside tavern, dates from the nineteenth century and is made from the shell of a giant turtle.

The museum tells the story of the wine trade in Bristol since it began 700 years ago. It uses ancient and modern equipment to show how wine is made, stored and drunk, and includes one of the world's finest collections of decanters, labels and eighteenth-century drinking glasses. The cellars were once used as stores by the Hospital of the Gaults which stood on the site.

Harvey's is one of the hundreds of museums around Britain participating in The Times Museums Year Passport scheme. They are all described in The Times Museums Year Guide. Application form, page 14

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Roman site saved from bulldozers

By Peter Davenport

A site in the centre of York that may contain the remains of the imperial residence of a Roman emperor was relieved from the threat of imminent destruction yesterday when the Government's National Curriculum Council agreed to find another base for its headquarters.

The decision to occupy offices to be built near the Ouse instead of a development planned for the Micklegate area came after long negotiations with the developers, archaeologists and the city council.

It had been feared that the delay in building work, caused by the dispute over the fate of remains discovered by archaeologists, would force the curriculum council to look for offices elsewhere and cost York 200 jobs. New national curriculums must be produced to all subjects by the summer of next year.

Today a team of scientists are to begin a radar scan of the Quercus Hotel site in Micklegate to produce a detailed picture of the extent of the ruins below ground. Some archaeologists believe that remains of a wall already uncovered may be those of the imperial residence of Emperor Septimius Severus who ruled the Roman Empire from York between AD208 and his death in 211.

Yesterday Dr Peter Addyman, director of the York Archaeological Trust, which has been excavating the site, said it was the first time that such equipment had been

used on an archaeological dig in this country.

The site has changed hands and the new developer's proposals would mean less damage to the remains and allow archaeological and building work side by side.

Dr Addyman said the radar scan would provide an accurate picture of what lay below ground so that the developer could be told where to drive its foundation piles to cause the least possible damage.

Members of the York Archaeological Trust still intend to leave the site by tomorrow's original deadline because they have no funds to mount further excavations. The new agreement means that remains can be left intact for future generations of archaeologists, with more advanced techniques, to study.

The developer, archaeologists and the local authority hope to persuade the Department of the Environment not to press ahead with a public inquiry which could delay building by a year.

The new arrangements for the National Curriculum Council - at present in temporary offices in the city - also include a 13-week programme for archaeologists to investigate the riverside site before building work starts. The £130,000 excavation costs will be met by the developer and landowner.

It is hoped that such agreements will provide the blueprint for future arrangements with developers in York.

Urban farms schemes among 124 entries

By Charles Kneivt, Architecture Correspondent

Community development projects from throughout the United Kingdom have been submitted for the fourth annual Community Enterprise Scheme, sponsored by The Times and The Royal Institute of British Architects.

Among the 124 entries are urban farms, housing co-operatives, managed work spaces and environmental improvement projects. The number of entries from Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland is the largest yet.

The Prince of Wales, patron of the award scheme, will present the prizes at the institute's headquarters in London on June 27.

Mr John Thompson, who is chairing a working group



organizing the day's event, said plans would shortly be announced for the award ceremony to be part of the first Community Day held at RIBA. It would include a conference involving business and community leaders, politicians and central and local government officers.

MORI survey reveals British attitudes to road safety, tax and rapidly increasing congestion

1.5m motorists drink and drive

By Kevin Eason, Motor Industry Correspondent

Motorists condemn dangerous driving standards but as many as 1.5 million drive while over the legal alcohol limit, a MORI survey has shown.

Only 2 per cent of 1,576 motorists questioned admitted being bad drivers, but 5 per cent, when asked whether they obeyed speed limits and other road laws, admitted driving while over the limit.

That figure, extrapolated, means that as many as 1.5 million British drivers regularly take to the roads after drinking too much.

Sixty-five per cent of those surveyed also admitted that they had knowingly broken the speed limit in the past six months.

Within that total, men were the worst offenders, with three-quarters admitting that they broke the law. The number of male offenders soared to 83 per cent in the 17-24 age category, but was reduced to 50 per cent in the over-65 group.

A third of those questioned said they had driven while feeling very tired, an action motorizing organizations say can lead to accidents and one

that could lead to prosecution if proposals in the new White Paper on road traffic laws are accepted.

Six per cent also told researchers they had driven their cars knowing there was a mechanical fault that made their vehicle unsafe.

Forty per cent said the general standard of driving on British roads was bad, but thought everyone else was to blame. When asked to rate their own performance, 75 per cent said their driving was good.

The MORI survey, for Britain's biggest independent car retailer, Lex Service, builds a fascinating picture of motorists and the way they perceive themselves.

Two-thirds of British households run a car, but 32 per cent have two, and 7 per cent three or more cars.

The average profile of the British driver is male, middle-aged and middle-class, but the survey shows a near-doubling in the number of women holding driving licences in the past two decades to 46 per cent.

The average motorist travels 10,200 miles a year, with

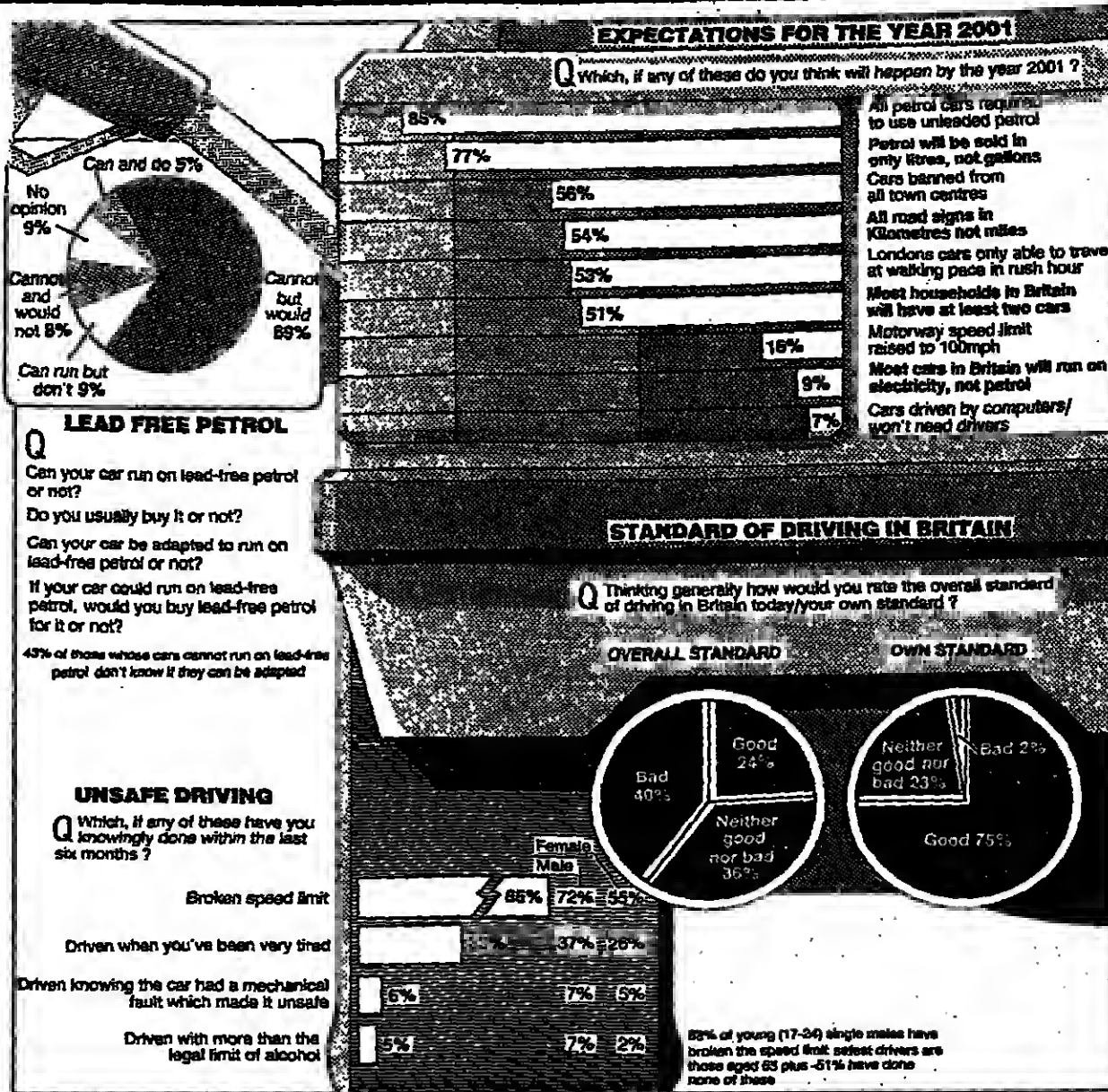
the most mileage covered by "Dinkies" — high-income married couples with no children — who average 13,500 miles. Most family mileage comes from the weekly shopping trip and travelling to work, accounting for 61 per cent.

A third of cars are bought new, while 41 per cent are more than six years old. Hatchbacks dominate the market, accounting for 53 per cent of models.

Only 18 per cent of women said they were able to carry out a six-point safety and maintenance check of oil levels, tyre pressure, changing a tyre, starting the car either with jump leads or push-starting and changing a headlamp bulb. However, nine out of 10 men claimed competence in all six departments.

Many, however, seemed to show little understanding of the Government's campaign to persuade motorists to switch to lead-free fuel.

While drivers said exhaust fumes were the biggest pollution worry faced by the country, only 5 per cent had cars that could run on lead-free petrol.



Firm's car tax rise is feared

Staff who fear taxes on their company cars could double in the Budget may demand pay increases from their employers to compensate.

Thirty-five per cent of company car drivers questioned in the MORI survey said they would seek such increases if Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, doubled taxation, in his Budget on March 14.

Another eight per cent would consider giving up their company cars and 16 per cent would be less interested in driving a company car. The tax rise would cost drivers between £400 and £1,800 annually.

The survey also revealed implications for car manufacturers.

Seven per cent of the MORI sample said they would switch to a smaller engine car to move out of expensive tax brackets.

This market is traditionally the province of such Japanese manufacturers as Nissan, which plans to build its own Micra model in Britain at its Sunderland plant, and Toyota, also considering a UK site.

European makers such as Jaguar and Mercedes, however, say that 80 per cent of their output goes to company sales. They could suffer from a switch to smaller engine cars.

Drivers remain in seats despite jams

By Our Motor Industry Correspondent

Britain faces a future of massive traffic congestion, with the prospect of an extra 2,600,000 cars flooding on to the roads in the next two years.

However, the survey by MORI reveals that drivers are unwilling to switch to public transport even though they understand that more traffic could bring more restrictions.

A total of 70 per cent told MORI that they would not use public transport even if services were improved. Instead, 84 per cent said they would find it very difficult to adjust to life without a car.

The poll says car ownership will soar, with more households owning more than one vehicle.

Despite gloomy industry predictions that sales are set to slump, MORI found buyers in buoyant mood with one in ten expecting to increase the number of vehicles in their households in the next two years.

The number of two-car families could increase from 32 per cent to 39 per cent and four-car families from 1 per cent to 3 per cent.

MORI's projections say that means another 2,600,000 cars crisscrossing the nation's already crowded roads system.

Mr Daniel Jones, European director of the International Motor Vehicle Project, which is examining the future of the car industry, said: "An increase in the number of cars of this order coming on to the roads has huge implications for the roads."

He said the Government must study more investment in other forms of transport,

which would allow motorists to mix their journeys between car and rail, and not just road improvements.

More than two-thirds of motorists told MORI they shunned buses and coaches and 58 per cent said they did not use trains or the London Underground.

Despite that, 40 per cent of those questioned were dissatisfied with their local road network and 30 per cent were unhappy at the state of the motorways.

Most motorists also understood they could face more restrictions as traffic levels increased.

Surprisingly, three-quarters think traffic wardens are doing a good job, while the reservations of Mr Paul Channon, the Secretary of State for Transport, about spreading the use of wheel clamps to other cities outside London were not shared. Six out of ten supported wheel clamps as a means of keeping cities clear of congestion.

Drivers expected even worse problems in the future, with more than half predicting cars would be banned from town centres by 2001, while traffic would be reduced to walking pace during London's rush hour.

None of those fears seemed to matter though to the average motorist, according to Mr Trevor Chinn, chairman and chief executive of Lex Service, which commissioned the MORI study.

He said: "There is an extraordinary reliance on motor cars, and an extraordinary desire for more cars."

Tebbit condemns ex-IRA man's job

By Douglas Broom, Education Reporter

A polytechnic director was yesterday accused of "taking risks with the young" by employing a former IRA bomb-maker as a campus official.

Mr Norman Tebbit, the former Conservative Party chairman, said parents of potential students should know that the Polytechnic of North London employed Anthony Madigan, aged 33, who was jailed for 10 years in 1975 for conspiracy to cause explosions.

In November Mr Tebbit was jeered when trying to address a polytechnic meeting.

In a reference to his wife's injuries in the Brighton bombing students chanted: "Go back to your wife — we remember Brighton."

He said yesterday: "I would have my doubts about employing criminals in educational establishments under any circumstances."

"It is one thing for an employer to take a risk with his own property but quite another for a director of an educational establishment to take risks with the young."

His allegation brought an angry reply from Mr Leslie Wagner, the polytechnic's director, who accused the former minister of "pursuing a vendetta against the Polytechnic of North London."

Mr Tebbit has published parts of a letter in which Mr Wagner said the polytechnic was following the advice of the Home Secretary who last year urged businesses to employ former offenders. Mr Madigan

was convicted in 1975 of being part of an IRA team which planted bombs in Birmingham and Manchester in the early 1970s. He was released in 1982.

Later he studied history at the North London Polytechnic, becoming Students' Union president in 1987 and taking up a job as an administrator in the humanities department, at the end of his presidential year.

Mr Wagner said: "The regrettable events attached to Mr Tebbit's visit last year had nothing whatsoever to do with the individual whom he is hounding. I abhor the way he is using this individual, and this polytechnic, for his own personal ends."

"So that there is absolutely no misunderstanding as a result of Mr Tebbit's mischief-making, let me reiterate that the polytechnic condemns all terrorist activity."

● Council education officers in Liverpool are to be asked to work in the classroom because of a shortage of teachers. Many of the officials are unqualified to teach but Mr Keva Coombes, leader of the city council, said that would not matter in the short term.

● A co-educational college in the West Midlands has banned staff from calling students by terms of endearment including "love" and "pet" for women and "squire" and "matey" for men. The equal opportunities committee at Halesowen College, Birmingham, decided such forms of address were sexist and patronising.

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Sainsbury's Australian Lager 4 x 375ml **£1.99**

Typhoo Tea Bags 80's **£1.07**

Sainsbury's English Lamb Whole Shoulder per lb **92p 74p**

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Alzheimer's among middle aged 'is inherited disorder'

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

Scientists have discovered that the early onset of Alzheimer's disease in people in their 40s and 50s is an inherited genetic disorder.

They have also found new evidence that implicates aluminium contamination in the environment as a possible factor in the disease.

More than 250,000 people succumb to this form of premature ageing, with associated loss of memory.

The latest results were presented yesterday by leading researchers from Britain and the United States to a conference at Imperial College in London, called to examine the possible link between Alzheimer's and the levels of aluminium in drinking water.

Aluminium sulphate is used as a pre-treatment process in areas where water is heavily contaminated by peat.

The new methods of genetic engineering devised through diagnosis of inherited disorders in children have been adapted by several groups of scientists in studying families that seem to be predisposed to the early development of Alzheimer's.

Dr John Hardy, from the department of biochemistry, neurology and anatomy at St Mary's Hospital, London, said when Alzheimer's occurred in brothers and sisters in a family known to be at risk of inheriting the early type, it struck them all at the same age.

He cited a family in which

at the age of 42, the onset of the condition occurred within two years. In another family it struck at around 54. One of the families studied had 16 members who also succumbed to the condition at the same age.

The timing for families at genetic risk is so precise, "like a metronome", according to Dr Hardy, that relatives who do not contract the condition have then out-lived the risk.

The latest results of the studies of the links between traces of aluminium in the brain and Alzheimer's came from Professor John Edvardsson, of the medical research council's neurochemical pathology unit, Newcastle upon Tyne General Hospital.

His group first observed in Britain that brain tissue of Alzheimer victims in areas supplied by water treated for high peat content contained traces of aluminium in damaged nerve cells that are characteristic of the disease.

The question of how that dangerous metal, which has no useful biological purpose, could cross the protective blood-brain barrier has caused as much concern as its possible role in provoking the disease.

Professor Edvardsson has provided the evidence showing how aluminium can become bound to an important molecule in the blood, called transferrin, that is normally a carrier of essential biological

substances to brain tissues. Although the aluminium is found in damaged brain cells, he suggests it may be implicated indirectly in the development of the disease by interfering with the production of one of the key molecules of the brain.

The latest evidence has come from patients who have received exceptional doses of aluminium, hundreds of times higher than in water supplies, because they have been on renal dialysis.

Their kidney disorder, for which they need dialysis, also prevents them from getting rid of aluminium from their body. Some of it accumulates in the brain.

Dr Peter Lee, a consultant specializing in the pattern of Alzheimer's disease, said it still had to be shown that aluminium in water supplies could in some way become "exceptionally bioavailable" to be absorbed into the brain.

He suggested further studies of people who had greater exposure to aluminium than was obtained through water supplies, which made up less than 10 per cent of the aluminium in the diet.

He proposed a follow-up of older patients from 15 to 20 years ago who had a very high aluminium intake from anti-acid compounds that were based on aluminium preparations. Their daily intake would have been 1,000 times higher than anything absorbed from water supplies and there were large numbers of them.

Bounding on for Cruft's show

DOUG HALL



Christopher Cumming putting Nell Nipper, his border collie, through its paces in preparation for Cruft's Dog Show

By Ruth Gledhill

Christopher Cumming will be one of the youngest competitors at Cruft's Dog Show when he takes Nell Nipper, his border collie, into the ring in the obedience classes. Christopher, aged 10, has won 48 rosettes and several silver trophies.

More than 14,000 dogs have been entered for the 93rd Cruft's, which begins

today at Earls Court, west London. Breeds with the highest number of entries are Irish setters, collies, golden retrievers, Labrador and Afghan hounds.

The Kennel Club has introduced a import register to protect new breeds from abroad. In previous years new breeds which have been imported and shown at Cruft's have suffered from a

rush of popularity which resulted in rapid breeding from mediocre stock. Such dogs will now be able to enter only the import register classes at shows and will not qualify for Cruft's until a sufficiently large gene pool is available for the breed to proceed to full registration.

Ruth Hobday, a prominent agility handler, is launching a guide for beginners on agility and obedience training.

Hospital radiation men want jobs back

Two hospital staff dismissed after more than 200 cancer patients received radiation overdoses are seeking reinstatement.

Mr Stuart Cook, a medical physicist, and Dr Scott Bowring, former head of the medical physics department at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital, are to appeal through the normal channels at Exeter Health Authority to return to their jobs.

A wrongly calibrated Telecobalt machine led to 207 patients receiving 25 per cent more radiation than prescribed last year. Yesterday, 15 were given interim damages awards by the health authority.

Service dates

Memorial services for the 47 who died in the M1 air crash will be held on February 21 at St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast, and February 26 at Holy Cross Priory, Leicester.

Raid sentence

Rosemary Poole, of Wandsworth, south-west London, received a month's suspended sentence and was fined £1750 at the Central Criminal Court yesterday for handling money from the £40 million Knightsbridge safe deposit raid.

Walk-out over

Staff at the Atomic Weapons Establishment at Aldermaston, Berkshire, returned to work yesterday after a 24-hour stoppage over a productivity dispute.

Job migration

Forty-seven Tynesiders have found work as postmen in Reading and Slough, Berkshire.

Picture bought on hunch is Pissarro

A bright Impressionist picture of Hyde Park in London, bought as a result of a hunch by a private collector, has turned out to be the work of Camille Pissarro, worth about £400,000.

The work - painted during Pissarro's brief second trip to London in the early summer of 1890, when he was staying

by Sarah Jane Checkland
Art Market
Correspondent

close to the park in Bayswater - shows carriages clattering down the north side of the Serpentine and fashionable people strolling down the avenue of trees.

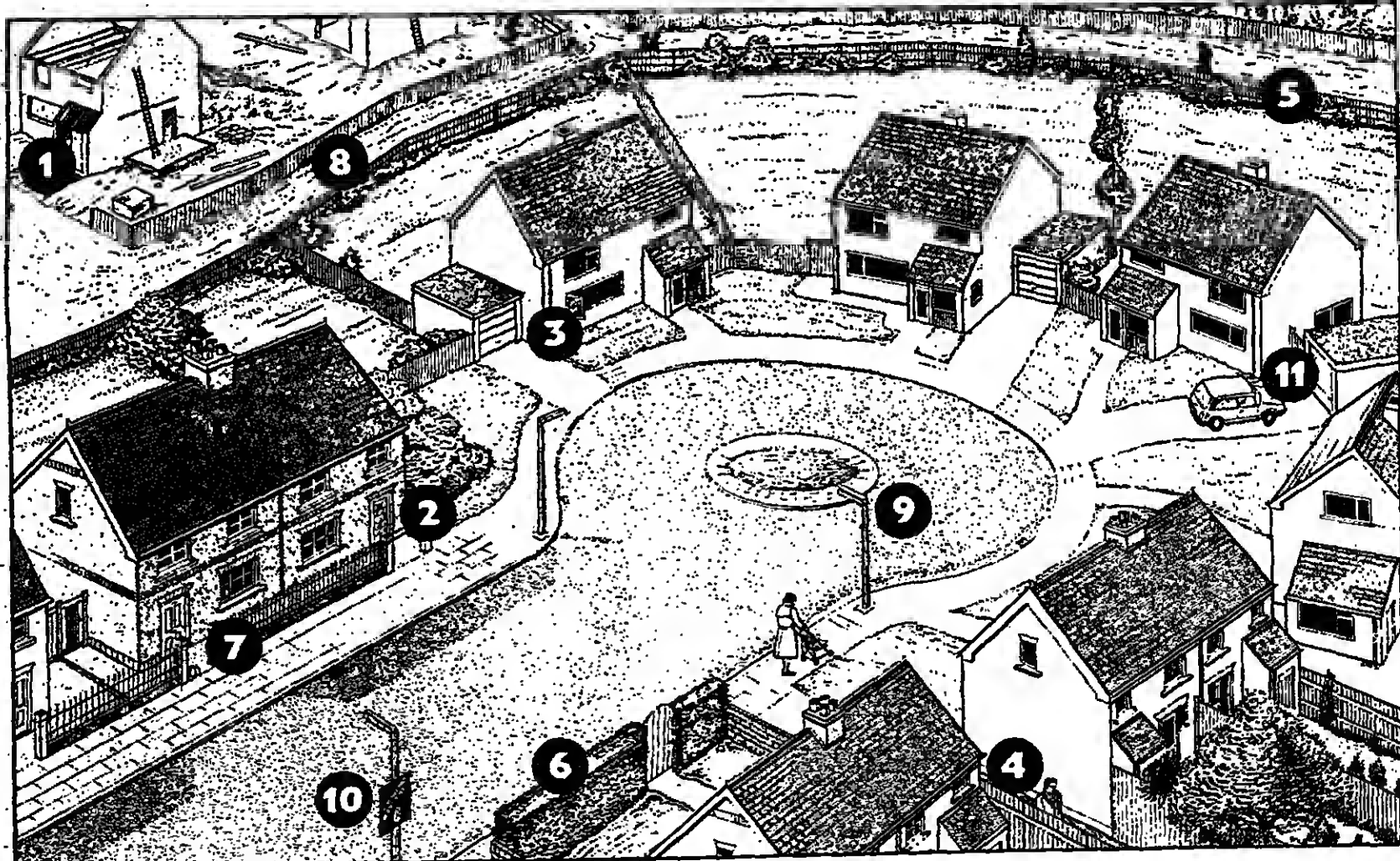
What initially intrigued the present owner was a partly over-painted inscription, reading "c. 1890". Close inspection showed that it was the artist's signature, obscured by his finishing touches. The picture was handed down to his son Lucien after Pissarro's death in 1904. It is thought that Lucien tried to sell it to

the Tate Gallery, but after five years on deposit there it was removed in November 1930. Christie's is selling the painting on April 3.

A sixteenth-century New England shilling, its weight "somewhat reduced due to immersion", fetched top price of \$14,300 (£8,218) among 230 lots from the wreck of the HMS Feversham at Christie's New York on Tuesday night. The frigate was lost off Nova Scotia in 1711, and salvaged in 1985. The shilling, dated 1652, was among the first coins struck in what is now the United States.

Highest price at the sale, at double its estimate, was £91,667 for a 1915 five-piece set of gold coins commemorating the Panama-Pacific Exposition at San Francisco to celebrate the opening of the Panama Canal.

John Duncan Fergusson, the Scottish artist, raised the highest bids at Sotheby's Glasgow on Tuesday night. His "Cassidy", a sunbaked view of the town, sold to the Portland Gallery of London for £48,400 (estimate £20,000 to £30,000).



TWELVE WAYS TO STOP A BURGLAR ENDING UP INSIDE.

The vast majority of crime is opportunistic, non-violent and against property. Much of this crime can be prevented. And we can all help.

Why not make a start by checking up on matters close to home. Look at your street and community to see if it can be made safer.

By helping each other, we present a united front against crime.

Here are twelve ways to begin.

1. New homes and housing developments could have security designed and built in rather than added as an afterthought.

2. Doors which appear secure to a layman, can seem flimsy to a burglar. Sturdy doors with security deadlocks can foil most burglars.

3. Open or unprotected windows can allow easy access. Fitting - and using - window locks, is a proven deterrent.

4. Passages can become convenient entry or escape routes for burglars. Fitting a high lockable gate across the path hinders them.

5. Low walls at the rear of a building can be dangerously easy to scale. Ideally they should be at least 6' high.

6. On the other hand, high hedges in front of a house can, unfortunately, provide privacy and seclusion for a criminal as well as for the occupants.

7. Burglars are attracted by signs of an unoccupied home: no

lights after dark or several days milk or newspapers at the door. Lights or radio on a time-switch can help and cancelling the milk and papers when away is essential.

8. Dark unlit paths and alleyways can conceal more than puddles. Outside lights can make everyone feel a lot safer. If it is public land, the matter should be raised with the landlords or the authorities.

9. Uolit or broken street lamps also need to be pointed out quickly to those responsible for them.

10. Joining or setting up a Neighbourhood Watch - or getting together with others in the area to share ideas - is a key to tailoring crime prevention to local circumstances.

11. Anyone buying a new car should check that it has up-to-date security built in. Even then, remembering to lock doors, shut windows and remove or hide tempting objects is important. And parking off the street in a garage, or even on a driveway, is safer.

12. There are over 100 more ideas on how to crack crime in this full colour handbook. Telephone or send this coupon for your free copy.

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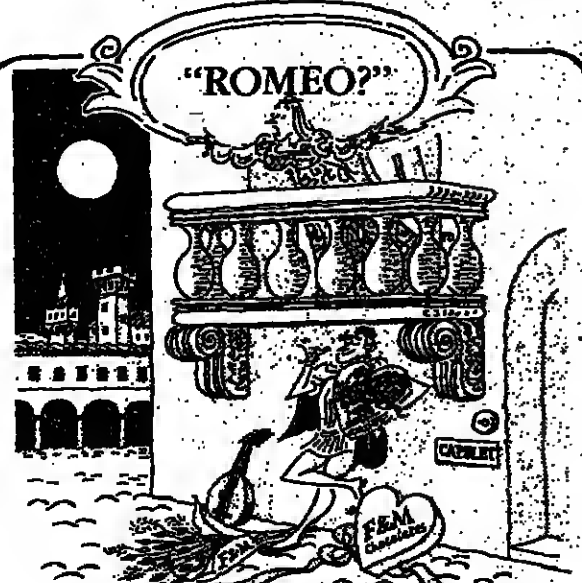
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SKY TELEVISION

PROGRESS REPORT



Andrew Neil, Peter Marshall, Alastair Yates, Derek Jameson, Rupert Murdoch, Penny Smith, Tony Blackburn, Kay Burley and Bob Friend.

ON AIR!

● AFTER weeks of anticipation Sky made television history on Sunday February 5th when four new channels went on air simultaneously.

More than a hundred reporters, photographers and camera crews packed into Studio 1 at Sky's new headquarters at Isleworth, West of London, to hear Rupert Murdoch and Andrew Neil launch Sky Channel, Sky News, Sky Movies and Eurosport.

The only way is up

THE Astra satellite system being used by Sky to deliver six new television channels to Britain is set to double its capacity.

Last week, the Luxembourg company that owns the Astra satellite announced that it would be launching a second satellite within two years and perhaps as early as 1990.

The second satellite will add sixteen channels to the sixteen already available on the first. The new satellite will open the way for new programmers to take the opportunity to launch television services and provide Sky with the opportunity to expand its service in the future.

Astra 2 is to be located in the same orbital parking position as the first. For viewers this is very important because it means that the Sky dish available now will also be able to pick up the new channels to be available in the future.

Andrew Neil, executive chairman, said: "The Astra system is the most technologically advanced anywhere. Unlike other satellite systems, which will limit viewers to a handful of channels, Astra offers the important benefit of an almost unlimited selection of programmes."

Among the ideas already mooted for additional channels are a Westminster Channel which would carry the proceedings of the House of Commons and the House of Lords as well as important public events such as party conferences; a classic film channel; educational channels; foreign language channels; children's channels; a weather channel; shopping channels; a business news channel and an "open" channel which would be available to all comers.

Negotiations now underway could result in the second satellite being launched as early as next spring, according to the Financial Times, which pointed out that this would give Astra a 32 channel capacity compared with the 5 channel system intended to be offered by another satellite company.

Companies interested in obtaining capacity on the new Astra satellite are invited to contact the system owners, Societe Europeenne des Satellites, Chateau de Betzdorf, Luxembourg.

Dish sales soar

HUNDREDS of thousands of satellite dishes are heading for the shops.

Consumer electronics retailers say the launch of Sky has already sparked the most successful launch of a new home entertainment product in history.

A Dixons store in London last week sold 30 dishes in 90 minutes. Dixons has 15,000 orders and more than 40,000 people have paid deposits at other outlets.

The demand is so enormous that factories making the equipment have moved to 24 hour production. Components are arriving in London by chartered jet to meet the intense demand.

Dixons has already ordered 170,000 dishes for

delivery by the end of June and it expects to increase its order to more than 250,000 units.

A survey of manufacturers indicates that more than 2 million units will be shipped to retailers this year.

Advertisers support Sky

SKY began start-up transmissions on February 5th with 170 advertisers. They include top national and international brands such as: American Express, Amstrad, Beechams, B.P., Colgate-palmolive, Ford, Foster's, General Motors, Kellogg, Lever Brothers, Mars, NEC, Nestle, Pepsi, Procter and Gamble, Rank Xerox, Rolex, Rowntree, Saab, Sony, Toyota, Unilever, Volvo and Warner Brothers.

Old meets new



THIS 18th century house in rural Essex was one of the first to be wired up for the 21st century.

Support grows

EXPRESS OPINION

Long live the Sky TV revolution

THAT launch of Rupert Murdoch's Sky TV is still their daily quest. But that small detail has not stopped critics writing off the historic move of British satellite television in advance.

Perhaps it would be more useful if they first searched some of Sky's output before reaching judgement.

Certainly, the immediacy of dishes and receivers for the new station's four channels is a disappointment. Only a few ordinary viewers will be able to tune in with their own dishes on Sunday.

However, this launching failure is not Sky's, but the equipment manufacturer's.

The names of rival TV dishes, the Channel 4's Michael Grade, are as unfair as they are predictable.

Pretextious

Mr Grade has dismissed Sky's output as "junk". He would, of course, for the sake of Channel 4's competitors will show them their own light.

The most wary the head of a channel whose output—spectacular coverage of American sports and the like—has been a success story for its producers, of which the winners have been the Channel 4's Michael Grade, and the Channel 4's Michael Grade, and the Channel 4's Michael Grade.

Political prejudice also figures in the opposition to the new station. No sooner had Labour MP Martin Smith signed up with Sky News, along with former Tory chairman Norman Tebbit—than he was spotted as an Opposition Frenchman spokesman.

He also, presumably, was taking money from one of Labour's favourite opponents. The argument that other Labour MPs have been spotted as Labour spokesmen is hardly new, even though they regularly write, and are paid by, Mr Murdoch's Times newspaper to have out on its side with Mr Murdoch.

Sky should think of sending Mr Murdoch a little something in return for the free publicity he has directed its way.

Teething

Of course, Sky will not be perfectly all right on the night. Given that the station has been rushed into being in only seven months—a considerable feat in itself—rough edges are bound to appear in early broadcasts.

But at least no broadcasting or newspaper launch has ever been without teething troubles. Ask the BBC.

The important thing is that the satellite television revolution, awaited so long, will be with us at last, extending our choice.

So much of the pre-launch hostility and mis-picking directed towards Sky is little more than a rehash of the old complaint that "Can't Do" Britain is incapable of doing anything well.

Mr Murdoch's trail-blazing satellite station is a product of our culture. Let the critics and naysayers and fools. The world will welcome the arrival of Sky and its rivals.

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FBI seeks delay in Tower vote

From Christopher Thomas
Washington

The nomination of Mr. John Tower as US Defence Secretary was thrown into grave doubt yesterday as the Federal Bureau of Investigation began looking into new allegations against the former senator.

Senator Sam Nunn, Democratic chairman of the armed services committee, said that if the vote were held immediately he would oppose the confirmation.

Senator James Exon, a leading Democratic committee member, said he, too, was leaning against the choice of Mr. Tower.

The latest crisis in Mr.

Tower's nomination came late yesterday when White House officials telephoned congressional leaders and informed them that the FBI had opened a new investigation into Mr. Tower's background.

If advised senators to delay a confirmation vote until the FBI inquiries were completed.

The reservations of Senator Nunn, who said that "serious questions remain", are a potentially fatal blow to Mr. Tower's nomination prospects. Asked if the new allegations were of a financial nature, the senator said: "I am not going to get into this."

It appears that earlier FBI inquiries did not turn up anything about Mr. Tower's

alleged womanizing and excessive drinking to warrant the White House asking him to withdraw, and Mr. Bush made clear through his press spokesman that he continued to stand by his old friend.

The Senate is in recess all next week, and there seems little prospect of a confirmation vote being held this week.

Several senators have given a warning that if the process stretched beyond this week, Mr. Tower would stand little chance of being nominated.

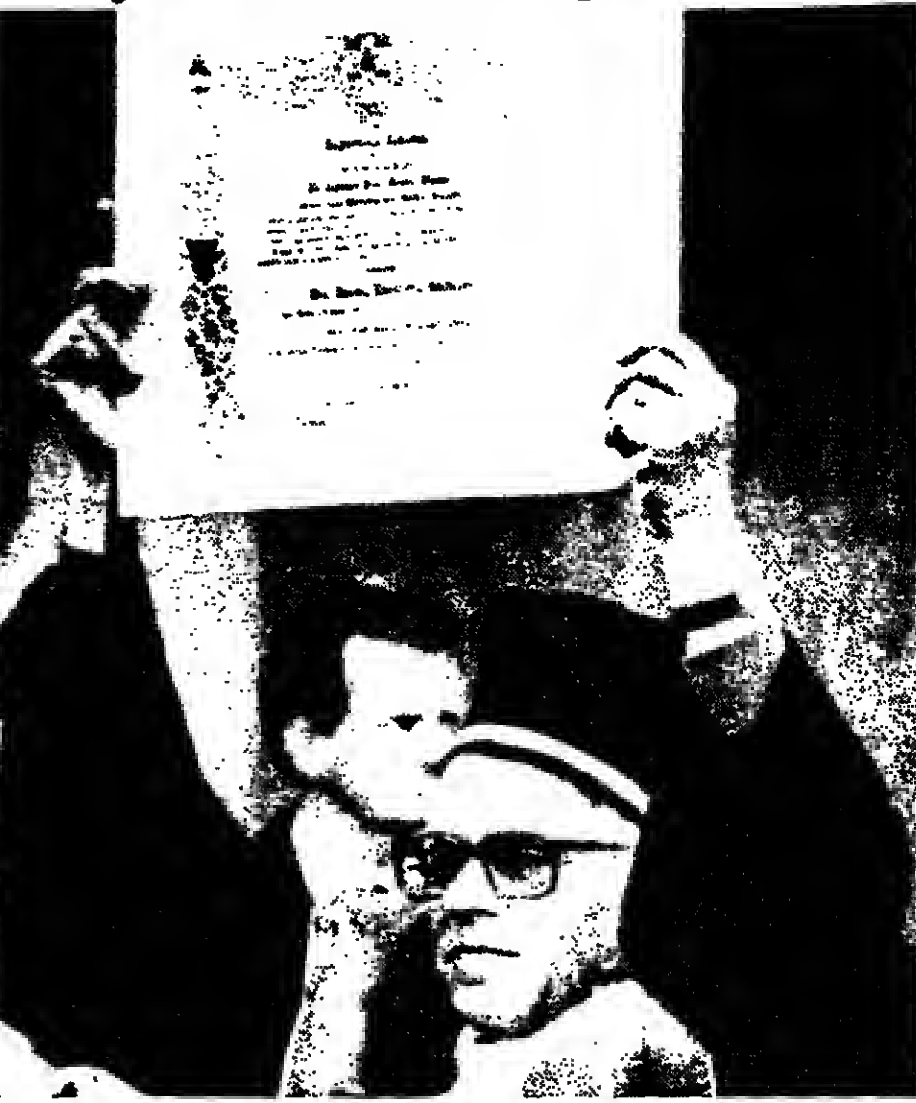
According to one report the latest allegations concern Mr. Tower's financial dealings, which the FBI said would take several days to investigate. Several senators said yes-

terday that even if Mr. Tower were eventually to be confirmed, his authority would be seriously weakened.

There were signs last night that reaction to the former senator were beginning to split along party lines. If that continues, his nomination will be doomed in the Democratic-controlled Senate.

President Bush met Senator Nunn at the White House for 45 minutes to discuss the nomination. The senator said he told the President that he would not make a final decision on whether to oppose Mr. Tower until all the evidence had been reviewed. Allegations of alcohol abuse were a "serious concern".

Physicist reaching for stars



Dr. Andrei Sakharov, the Soviet physicist and human rights activist, in academic cap and gown, showing the honorary astronomy degree awarded by Bologna university yesterday.

Bush aims for zero growth in defence budget

From Our Own Correspondent
Washington

President Bush will tonight propose trimming America's huge eight-year build-up in defence expenditure, with increases limited in the next financial year to the level of inflation.

His Pentagon budget plan will mean zero growth in defence expenditure for 1990, with severely limited increases in following years, signalling the end of former President Reagan's unprecedented military expansion.

Mr. Bush will outline his proposals in his first speech to a joint session of Congress, at which he will reveal for the first time how he intends to fulfil his election pledge of a "kinder, gentler nation".

His \$1,160 billion (£667 billion)

total budget request, while cutting back on defence spending, will seek more for new domestic initiatives than President Reagan wanted. The zero growth proposal for the Defence Department would cut about \$6.3 billion from the military's proposed \$215 billion spending for the financial year beginning on October 1.

The cutback, which contrasts with Mr. Reagan's proposal for increases of 2 per cent above the rate of inflation in each of the next four years, was worked out after fierce internal debate. Mr. Bush's proposal would allow a 1 per cent increase after inflation in 1992 and 2 per cent in 1993.

The spending compromise was finally reached during a White House session on Monday involving Mr. John Tower, the Defence Secretary,

designate, Mr. James Baker, the Secretary of State, Admiral William Crowe, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Mr. Richard Derman, the Budget Director and Mr. Nicholas Brady, Treasury Secretary.

After final meetings with his advisers, Mr. Bush went to Capitol Hill to begin lobbying for his budget.

Mr. Bush's 1990 Pentagon plan will not give the military any guidelines for making the reductions. But he is expected tonight to provide more details on increased spending for the homeless, education, the environment and child care, as well as tax concessions and policy changes to encourage child adoption as part of his campaign against abortion.

Mr. Martin Fitzwater, the White House spokesman, said: "It is a time

of tight budgets. The new initiatives won't have a lot of money. They do represent a first step..."

Congressional Democrats have demanded that Mr. Bush stick to his campaign promise of a detailed blueprint for how he would reduce the deficit without raising taxes. Some congressional leaders have said that they will reject his request for budget negotiations if he fails to provide a sufficiently detailed budget.

His overall budget proposals — costing about the same as requested by Mr. Reagan shortly before leaving office — will include more money to clean up pollution at factories making nuclear weapons, and grants to local governments for mass transit systems and give tax incentives for businesses in poor neighbourhoods.

WORLD ROUNDUP

Amnesty doubt over Iran Briton

It was not immediately clear yesterday whether Mr. Roger Cooper, the Briton who has been held in prison for more than three years in Tehran, will qualify for release under an amnesty declared to mark the tenth anniversary of the Iranian revolution (Hassan Teymourian writes). All but 900 of the estimated several thousand members of opposition political parties in Iranian jails are expected to be freed. Some categories of criminals are also expected to benefit.

In London, his sister-in-law, Mrs. Lily Cooper, said the family would not raise its hopes about his release, and quoted Iran's Interior Minister as having said last month that Mr. Cooper would not be included in any amnesty.

North trial objections

Washington — The US Justice Department is raising fresh objections about the use of classified information that could slow down or even prevent the trial of a suspected Iranian Contra officer (Christopher Walker writes). The Justice Department, which opposes the Government's position, He proposed a solution under which Mr. North would be ordered by the court to avoid disclosure of classified information in his opening statement.

Jordan crisis deepens

The economic crisis in Jordan yesterday forced the Government to invoke martial law regulations dating to the 1967 Middle East war in order to shut down all unofficial moneychangers to shore up the collapsing currency (Christopher Walker writes). State-controlled radio said licences were withdrawn because of "continuous violations despite previous warnings from the Central Bank".

Borg blames food

Stockholm — In a telephone call here yesterday to Miss Jannike Björling, aged 22, the mother of his son, Robin, aged five, the former Wimbledon champion, Björn Borg, denied he had attempted suicide in Milan with an overdose of sleeping pills (Christopher Mosey writes). He said: "I'm in no danger... I was just a victim of... food poisoning."

Spanish sex change

Madrid — A former young woman said in a television interview here yesterday that he had undergone Spain's first full female-to-male surgical sex change (Harry Debelius writes). The removal of female organs and construction and implantation of male organs was completed last Saturday by Dr. Aurelio Urdin, Professor of Urology in Madrid.

1789 and all that

Street credibility eludes Robespierre

From Philip Jacobson, Paris

Flick through a taxi driver's map of Paris, and you will find most of the outstanding personalities of the French Revolution suitably commemorated. Lafayette has his rue; Mirabeau his elegant place; Danton his place; Talleyrand and Desmoulins their own modest stretches of street, as does an array of military individuals.

But where is the homage to Maximilien Robespierre, "the sea-green incorruptible" and choice of a clear majority of today's French in a 200th anniversary poll asking who was the most important figure in the drama and turmoil of 1789.

His name is marked only by a dingy Métro station in Montreuil, on the eastern limits of the capital, far from where the most spectacular celebrations of the bicentenary will take place this year.

The problem seems to be the Terror, directed by this lawyer from Arras with an implacable bloodlust that still sets him aside, in French eyes, from the rest of the revolutionary cast. But now a committee has been formed to remember Robespierre, if not exactly to rehabilitate him, by putting his name on a stretch of the fashionable Rue Saint-Hippolyte where he once lived.

Its stated aim is to "defend and honour the memory of

Robespierre and the Revolution as a whole" without touching upon politics.

Oh yes? We are talking about a figure whom the harder reaches of the right in France equate above all with regime and savage political oppression: "the Ayatollah Khomenei of his era", as one outraged local official observed when the Communist Mayor of Thionville in the Moselle proposed to rename the town square after Robespierre and commission a bust of him to stand in it.

These days, in fact, the far left in France is just about the only part of the political spectrum with a good word for Robespierre.

But while Robespierre's faithful supporters seek to praise their difficult case for his recognition with the staunchly conservative Mayor of Paris, M. Jacques Chirac, does the freemason editor and agitator Jean-Paul Marat — famously assassinated in his bath by Charlotte Corday — deserve to be ignored as well?

After all, his mortal remains were subsequently disinterred and borne solemnly to lie in the still uncompleted Pantheon. Marat's fault, if yet another violent change of revolutionary direction saw them removed only a few months later in the wake of Robespierre's downfall.



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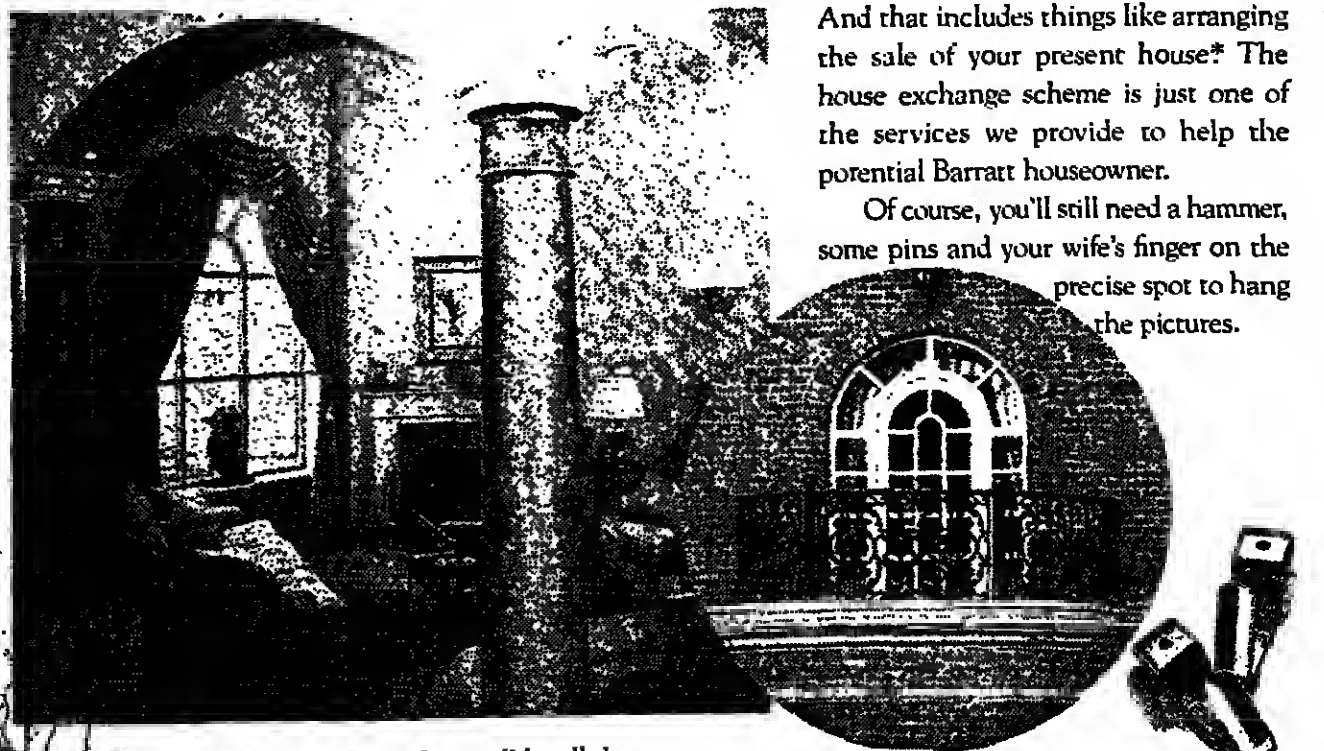
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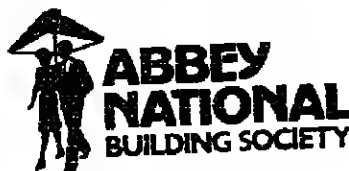
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Academics back Thatcher against federal Europe

By Andrew McEwen in London and Ian Murray in Bonn

A British movement opposed to the creation of a federal European state was launched yesterday in response to growing concern that a further huge dilution of British sovereignty could be on the cards.

Thirteen academics led by Lord Harris of Highcross, chairman of the Institute of Economic Affairs, launched what they called "The Campaign for a Europe of Sovereign States". It is known as the Bruges Group, a name taken from Mrs Thatcher's speech to the College of Europe in Bruges on September 20 in which she opposed political union and called for the retention of separate national identities.

Mrs Thatcher was supported by Mr Nigel Lawson in a speech to the Royal Institute of International Affairs on January 25. He attacked proposals for economic and monetary union and expressed fears that "the dream of 1992 would become a nightmare".

But Mrs Thatcher's stand has met strong opposition from most other European leaders and from the President of the European Commission, M Jacques Delors. West Germany, Italy, Spain, France and Greece are among those keen to agree steps towards greater unity either during the Spanish presidency of the

EEC, which ends in June, or in the French presidency which follows it.

There is no consensus yet, however, on just what is meant by "European Union". If it means the creation of a united states of Europe, the French public would be unlikely to accept so great a loss of national sovereignty, but

The United States Trade Representative, Mrs Carla Hills, is optimistic that the US can find a way to settle its dispute with the European Community over hormones in beef (Our Foreign Staff writes). She declined to disclose her negotiating position at a press conference, but seemed to suggest that compromise was possible. In the Gatt Council in Geneva yesterday, both the US and the EEC came under heavy criticism for resorting to unilateral measures in their trade war.

the Germans and Italians would probably approve.

Until the launch of the Bruges Group, Mrs Thatcher's view had found more opposition than support at home.

Mr Edward Heath, who has been in the vanguard of that opposition, returned to the attack in Hamburg yesterday in a speech at a ceremony to mark the 40th anniversary of

the European Union of Hamburg, in which he said that the European Community is moving "inexorably" towards political union.

Challenging the "five guiding principles" on Europe outlined by Mrs Thatcher in Bruges, the former Conservative Prime Minister agreed with her in calling for Europe to shoulder a greater share of the burden of its own defence in order to maintain American commitments, and used this very point to try to prove his case.

"France and Germany have taken the lead in co-ordination of their foreign policy and defence at the highest level of government. I do not object to that. I just wish Britain was also a participant. It is time for the rest of the Community to follow."

The threat of American troop withdrawals must no longer be allowed to undermine European defences, he said. The US had to be asked how many men it needed in Europe to satisfy its needs in the light of its assessment of the Soviet threat. Then the European Community could make a similar assessment.

"To succeed in having a united defence policy we must also have a united foreign policy. That will tell us what level of defence is required. To

have a united foreign policy, we must move towards political union," Mr Heath said.

He taxed Mrs Thatcher with ignorance for suggesting that decisions for the Community would be taken by "an appointed bureaucracy".

The Bruges Group argues that the fundamental decisions involved in political union should not be taken by governments alone. "This movement unequivocally denies that any European politician has the mandate to make such pronouncements," it says.

It calls for a national debate and for MPs and MEPs to state their positions. If necessary, European governments should hold referendums to test opinion, it says, though it hopes the debate will not reach that stage.

"It seems incredible to us that only the British Prime Minister seems to treat the question of national sovereignty with the importance it deserves," the group says.

The Bruges Group was founded by Mr Patrick Robertson, aged 20, a second-year modern history undergraduate at Keele College, Oxford. He was inspired by Mrs Thatcher's speech, but had considered such a campaign several months earlier.

Spectrum, page 14

PLO 'was paid not to hijack'

Tel Aviv (Reuters) — A US aviation security expert said yesterday that four international airlines had paid Palestinian guerrillas millions of dollars in the 1970s to avoid attacks on their aircraft or passengers.

"There was one American and three West European airlines involved... it's difficult to get the exact sums but they were in the millions of dollars," Mr Neil Livingstone told an international seminar on aviation security.

The former congressional aide, who is now a consultant to several airlines and lectures at Georgetown University in Washington, declined to identify the airlines but said that he would do so shortly.

He said that his information was corroborated by six US, Arab, European and Israeli intelligence services.

"Most of it happened in the 1970s and most of the money went to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine when Wadi Haddad was its operations chief."

"But we believe Arafat (chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization) was also a beneficiary, through a secret fund, and that he knew very well what was going on."

Haddad, who later died of cancer, was accused by Israel of masterminding some of the most spectacular hijacks of the late 1960s and early 1970s.

Mr Livingstone said that, to his knowledge, no payments were now being made.

He also said there were three occasions in the 1970s when Soviet fighters shot down hijacked Soviet passenger aircraft to stop them reaching the West.

Poll crowds flock to Manley



Mr Michael Manley, Prime Minister of Jamaica until 1980, reaching out to supporters at a rally in Kingston on the eve of today's general election, which he is favourite to win. Violence

escalated on Tuesday night as two more people were shot dead, and the final campaigning of the Prime Minister, Mr Edward Seaga, was marred by gunfire. Leading article, page 17

Reforming the Soviet economy

Slow progress for Gorbachov

By Mary Dejevsky

A new word of caution about prospects for reform in the Soviet Union is voiced in the latest study of President Gorbachov's economic reform programme.

The study, published today by the Economist Intelligence Unit, concludes that while Mr Gorbachov has achieved some significant results in his initial attempts to reform the Soviet economy, any real improvement in living standards will be slow and Western firms hoping for a rapid increase in trade with Moscow are likely to have a long wait.

The report, which has been compiled by Professor Michael Ellman of the University of Amsterdam, argues that over the past decade, the Soviet economy has been characterized by stagnation and shortage, inflation and inefficiency, and that thorough structural changes will be needed if the situation is to improve during the 1990s.

To demonstrate the relative decline of Soviet economic fortunes, it presents statistics showing that in the 17 years to 1982, average real wage levels in the Soviet Union and its satellites in Central Europe fell by almost half in relation to those of Austria.

Among the more pessimistic conclusions of Professor Ellman's report is that the Soviet Union may not in future merit the excellent credit rating it has enjoyed in

the past. A combination of wasteful use of raw materials, the sustained fall in oil prices on the world market, and the credits advanced to Third World countries in respect of arms purchases during the Brezhnev years, means that the Soviet Union could be facing severe liquidity problems in hard currency. Its net hard currency debt, he says, has almost trebled since 1984.

This last observation may help to explain the apparent dispute among Soviet economists and within the leadership about whether to increase the country's level of in

debtedness. Although West Germany, Italy and Britain offered Moscow large sums of credit last autumn, it has shown no signs of taking them up, and one senior Soviet economist has cautioned against buying consumer goods from abroad on the grounds that this would discourage Soviet industry from making the necessary adjustments.

Professor Ellman argues that extra hard currency credits of between \$3 billion and \$5 billion a year spent on imports of Western consumer goods might help the Soviet Union through its current

severe shortages and simultaneously benefit the state because of the large mark-ups imposed on such goods. Conflicts within the Soviet leadership are cited by the professor as one reason for the many contradictions and compromises of the present reform programme, and he emphasizes the unpredictability of reforms which depend exclusively on the attitudes of the top leadership.

Price reform and decentralization of financial responsibility conflict, he says, with Mr Gorbachov's pledge that any price reform will not affect living standards while the centre clings to its control of resources. He blames the Soviet leadership for irresponsibility in allowing the growth in the money supply to outstrip availability of goods, resulting in longer queues for desirable goods and inflationary price rises.

Professor Ellman singles out three key areas of reform which could produce rapid improvement if allowed to develop freely: co-operative enterprises, leasing of agricultural land and joint ventures with foreign companies. Unfortunately all three still provoke fierce opposition.

The chairman of the Central Committee's commission on agriculture has stated that land can only be leased within the framework of collective farms and sabotage has been reported by farmers switching

to the new system. So far as co-operative enterprises are concerned, Professor Ellman's guardedly hopeful assessment has already been superseded by new regulations which come into effect on February 15. These severely limit co-operative activity in many areas and stipulate in most cases that co-operatives can only function if they have formal links with state enterprises and fix their prices at or close to official state prices.

These regulations, published since Professor Ellman's report was completed, illustrate how swiftly

● Moscow has shown no sign of taking up offers of credit ●

and unpredictably the Soviet economic scene can change at present.

A remark by the chairman of a collective farm in Armenia, quoted in the last section of the report, provides an apt summary: "The laws have been adopted, but they do not seem to have reached everybody yet. Economic independence flourishes in speeches and reports. And in practice

The USSR in the 1990s: Struggling Out of Stagnation, by Michael Ellman, Economist Intelligence Unit, 1989, £110.

Rival groups clash at rally attacking Mujahidin council

A demonstration by up to 7,000 people in Peshawar to protest against the Mujahidin leadership and its "undemocratic" selection of members to a consultative council, or shura, ended in confusion yesterday after fighting between rival groups.

The crowd gathered yesterday morning outside the office of the Afghan National Liberation Front of Professor Sibghatullah Mujadidi, current leader of the seven-party alliance. Like other recent mass demonstrations, most speakers rejected the shura called by the alliance leadership for tomorrow, while some demanded the return of the former King Zahir Shah as the only person capable of providing a unified government.

The shura's members have been selected by top party members, a practice branded as undemocratic by protesters, who called for an assembly representing all the people.

Other speakers said that the shura, and any government approved by it, were being imposed on the Afghan people by outside powers — a reference to Pakistan, which has

From Anatol Lieven, Peshawar

played a central role in pressuring the Mujahidin chiefs to agree on the council.

"The people of Afghanistan will never accept a government imposed by another state. Why else did we fight against the Russians?" one speaker said later. Some of the tribal elders and junior commanders who convened the meeting declared afterwards that the seven parties in the alliance would never be able to create a united government for Afghanistan.

"We have a candidate against their government, and that candidate is (former King) Mohammad Zahir Shah, because he knows how to govern," one said. Others maintained that the United Nations had decided that the former monarch should return to form a broad-based government.

Among the speakers was Mr Azizullah Wazafi, a former minister under the former king and Speaker of Parliament under President Daud. When he called for a return of the royal exile some of the crowd — said to belong to the Hezb-i Islami group of Mr Gulbuddin Hekmatyar —

were involved in stone-throwing and scuffles with Mr Wazafi's supporters, and several protesters were injured. Pakistani police broke up the meeting as the fighting spread.

Yesterday's protest was one of the biggest in a series of demonstrations against the shura in Peshawar and in the refugee camps, chiefly those in Baluchistan.

Even moderate parties, which have been urging acceptance of the shura while a role for the former king is decided, have been criticized by their members during the protest.

Despite the protests, it is now almost certain that the shura will take place. But three key areas of dispute remain. Firstly, a proposed interim government led by Mr Ahmed Shah, of the radical Ittehad-i-Islami party, may be rejected by the moderates. Secondly, Iranian participation in the shura is disputed. Finally, there is no agreement about the length of the shura.

● ANKARA: Turkey is trying to secure the release of about 300 Soviet prisoners of war held by the Mujahidin, the Foreign Ministry here said yesterday.

Getting down to business



Afghan soldiers from a new unit, formed to defend vital installations in the capital after the Soviet troop withdrawal, running through their exercises at a Kabul training session.

Early poll fear in Spain

Unions link to win shift to left

From Harry Debelias, Madrid

Spain's two major trade union organizations drew up joint battle plans here yesterday for an onslaught which could induce the Socialist Government to call an early general election after the collapse of negotiations over union demands for a left turn in economic policies.

The strategy meeting between the secretaries general of the Socialist General Labour Union and of the Communist Workers' Commission, Señor Nicolás Redondo and Señor Antonio Gutiérrez, lasted all day.

After the breakdown late on Tuesday night of what the Labour Minister, Señor Manuel Chaves, had previously said was the Government's last attempt to reach agreement with the unions, Señor Antonio Saracibar, a Labour Union official, hinted that a wave of strikes and demonstrations may follow.

Calling the Government's attitude absurd and lamentable, he said: "The trade unions find themselves forced to give further study to the matter of mobilizations."

No sooner had the unsuccessful six-hour bargaining session ended than both unions announced that their leaders would meet within

hours to draw up a calendar of actions to keep up the pressure for their demands.

The Labour Minister blamed the unions for being unbending and said that the Government had made "a tremendous effort". He said the Government did not consider itself bound by any of its offers which were rejected by the unions, but that it would study ways to help the unemployed, low-paid civil servants and old-age pensioners.

A well-supported 24-hour nationwide general strike on December 15 first brought the Government to the bargaining table after a period of degeneration of the ties between the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party and the Labour Union, which once formed the core of the party.

In sessions with representatives of the Socialist and the Communist unions, the Government inched closer to meeting demands for bettering the position of low-income groups, and in the final session the unions adopted a more flexible position. But they reached an impasse when the Government's final offer for funding the measures fell about 70 billion pesetas (£347 million) short of the unions' estimate of the cost.

US sees hope for human rights in glasnost advance

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

The United States, in its human rights report for 1988, says that although there have been "remarkable changes" in the Soviet Union it still cannot say there has been a "fundamental shift" in Moscow's approach to individual rights.

But there was no doubt that the changes achieved so far had profound implications for the system and that the reform of the system appeared to have gained strength, the State Department's annual report to Congress says.

The 1,546-page report, covering 169 countries and territories, says that the recognition of the need for Soviet action to secure the rights of individuals, and the fact that the defects of the present system were now discussed openly, "offer a basis for cautious hope of a better day".

The implementation of glasnost had given the Soviet population, at least in large cities, greater opportunity to express its views in public.

But unlike other government agencies, the KGB had been subjected to only a modicum of glasnost and perestroika.

The report says that by the end of 1988 all those in the Soviet Union sentenced for dissenting political or unauthorized religious activity, had been freed. Abuse of psychiatry had been made a punishable offence.

Jewish emigration in 1988 totalled 19,292, up from 8,155 in 1987 and the highest yearly total since 1979, when 51,000 Jews left the country.

During 1988 more than 10,000 Soviet Armenians emigrated to the US, and more than 45,000 Soviet ethnic Germans were allowed to go to West Germany.

In Eastern Europe, 1988 also held significant advances in Hungary and Poland toward a more open society.

The report says that the most significant human rights violations of 1988, measured by severity and the number of

people affected, took place in inter-ethnic conflicts in Iraq, Burundi and Sudan.

In each of these situations innocent civilian bystanders died as a result of guerrilla warfare or reprisals for violence.

The Baghdad Government comes in for harsh criticism. "Iraq's abysmal human rights record remained unacceptable in 1988," the report says.

It reprimands Iraq for employing chemical warfare against a Kurdish insurgency, killing and injuring thousands of civilians and causing tens of thousands to flee the country.

"Hundreds of thousands of Kurds have also been forcibly relocated within Iraq," it says. The Baghdad Government has denied strongly that it has used poison gas against its Kurdish rebels.

The report estimates that between 5,000 and 10,000 civilians died in ethnic violence in Burundi.

No accurate assessment has been made, it says, but some reports estimate that between 100,000 and 250,000 civilians in southern Sudan died from starvation after armed forces on each side interfered with, or failed to co-operate with, efforts to deliver food supplies.

On Afghanistan, the report says that throughout the year there were reprisal attacks against civilian populations suspected of sympathizing with the Mujahidin.

"There were also civilian casualties resulting from the deployment of a napalm-like substance against the resistance," it says.

On the Asian continent, there were significant steps in 1988 by South Korea, Taiwan and Pakistan toward democracy and increasing respect for individual rights.

By contrast, in Burma nationwide sentiment for free elections was "brutally suppressed when the military systematically killed and detained student demonstrators and leaders".

Israel says report will not harm ties

From Richard Owen, Jerusalem

Israel insisted yesterday that its relations with Washington would not be "basically damaged" by publication of what senior officials here called "an exaggerated and incomplete US State Department report on human rights abuses in the occupied territories".

But officials fear that the report might have an adverse effect on Western public opinion and hence on the US Congress, which could decide to cut back some of America's annual aid of \$3 billion (£1.7 billion) to Israel.

Many Israelis complained yesterday that the US, "our greatest friend", had not understood the problems Israel faced in trying to observe human rights while dealing with a violent rebellion. But Palestinian activists on the West Bank applauded the report.

A spokesman for Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli Prime Minister, said that the country was defending its security by fighting "terrorism" in the occupied territories and was compelled to use force to ensure law and

order. Mr Benjamin Netanyahu, the right-wing Deputy Foreign Minister, said: "Israel is fighting a war."

The Foreign Ministry said that the US report could not have been compiled if Israel had not been a democratic and open society in which information on human rights was freely available. The report was harsher than in previous years because the disturbances with which Israel had to cope had become more frequent and more intense.

Israel is circulating a leaflet to diplomats in the US which points out that the report failed to give "full consideration to the actions of local extremist elements".

● Three dead: Israeli forces shot dead two Arabs yesterday and a third died of wounds after a disturbance at a military prison in Megiddo.

● LONDON: A British all-party parliamentary delegation said yesterday at a press conference in the PLO's London office that Israeli troops had used "unbelievable" brutality against the intifada.

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Nato to propose 5pc cut in European force levels

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

Nato officials are in the final stages of drafting a detailed package of conventional arms-control proposals to present to the Warsaw Pact nations in four weeks' time which will include an offer to reduce force levels by about 5 per cent on either side once East-West imbalances in tanks, artillery and manpower are removed.

The cut has been approved by Nato governments as a "yardstick figure" on which to begin talks with the Eastern bloc when the new Conventional Forces in Europe talks begin early next month in Vienna.

Sources are emphasizing that this would not mean an across-the-board reduction of 5 per cent in all Nato units deployed in Europe.

The cutbacks, which would have to be shared between alliance members, would vary according to the equipment and its location on the Central Front. One suggestion, for example, is that the number of artillery pieces could be reduced by up to 50 per cent.

There is no firm commitment among Nato members to the 5 per cent figure. Some countries have attached more importance to sticking rigidly to it, but the general feeling is that the figure is a sensible negotiating target.

Nato military commanders

have advised that the alliance policy of "forward defence" — keeping permanent allied divisions in West Germany — would not be impaired by a 5 per cent cut in forces.

Moscow, however, has proposed a three-stage approach to arms reductions at the Vienna talks: first, eliminating the imbalances (according to the Warsaw Pact, while it admits superiority in tanks and artillery, the West has more strike aircraft, combat helicopters and anti-tank rocket systems); second, reductions of 25 per cent by each side; and third, aiming for a situation in which each side keeps forces adequate for a purely defensive posture.

Nato officials who are working on the proposals will meet in Brussels two or perhaps three more times before the end of the month.

One of the key meetings will be held today and tomorrow, when they will try to resolve remaining differences over tactics for Vienna. The final

draft will then go to Nato nations for approval.

The broad outlines of the West's conventional arms-control proposals were agreed by foreign ministers at the North Atlantic Council meeting in Brussels in December. Nato's plans for removing the asymmetries in the East-West conventional balance were announced after the meeting.

These include proposals for an overall limit of 40,000 tanks in Europe, 20,000 on each side. No country would be allowed to have more than a fixed proportion, such as 30 per cent, of the total holdings in each equipment category in Europe of the 23 Nato and Warsaw Pact countries.

Equal limits would also be established for artillery and armoured troop carriers, and the levels would be set "just below Nato's existing numbers". No mention was made then of a 5 per cent cut.

To meet these targets, it was agreed that the Warsaw Pact would have to reduce its tank force by 31,500, but Nato by only 2,000.

The West also insisted in its proposals that within each side's total of 20,000 tanks, no country could have more than 12,000 deployed in the area for negotiation — between the Atlantic and the Urals.

Preparations by Nato for

the new talks have been both helped and complicated by the publication in Moscow of the Warsaw Pact's figures for the conventional military balance. The Eastern bloc's statistics have varied, sometimes dramatically, from those published by Western governments in November.

But officials have now managed to work out how the Warsaw Pact defence ministers produced their figures, apart from the tank total, which still causes total bewilderment in the West.

One source said that even if the East counted Nato's light tanks as well as its main battle models and all those in store, the figure would still fall far short of the 30,690 claimed in the ministers' data.

The Warsaw Pact also said that Britain had 2,000 tanks, when the correct total is about 1,450 if the 271 Scorpion light tanks are included.

The Western proposals will be presented to the Warsaw Pact on the first day of the plenary talks as the subject of a complete package for negotiation. Discussions about data will be thrown into the overall talks on cuts.

The Vienna meeting begins on March 6 with three days of speeches by foreign ministers, followed by the first negotiating session on March 9.

French police force jail picket line



French police in riot equipment removing a picket line of striking prison officers from the gates of the Fleury-Mérogis prison near Paris yesterday: it was one of several picket lines broken at jails throughout the country. About 14,000 guards, demanding better pensions and

career prospects, have been on strike for three days (AFP reports). Yesterday they refused to admit lawyers and other visitors after having previously limited their protest to blocking the movement of prisoners. M. Pierre Arpaillange, the Justice Minister, hinted at negotiations with the

union resumed that 13 officers suspended earlier this week would be reinstated if the pickets were called off. The Government has said it will not tolerate a repeat of a strike that brought prisons to a halt in September and October, and threatened to use troops if necessary.

Pay talks founder

Portugal hit by doctors' strike

From Martha de la Cal, Lisbon

Doctors in Portugal began a three-day strike yesterday after a breakdown in negotiations over wages and work conditions with Senhora Leonor Beleza, the Minister of Health.

Senhora Beleza, who was given the Health portfolio in 1986 after having served for several years on a government committee studying the situation of women in Portugal, has waged a two-year war with the Portuguese Medical Association to change the structure of the country's backward health and hospital system.

The Health Minister has dismissed hospital administrators and hired those of her own choosing, demanded that doctors just out of medical school work exclusively in hospitals without the financial support of a private practice, advocated the introduction of cheaper generic medicine to substitute in part the patented medicines now prescribed by doctors, and lowered government subsidies on some medicines under the state health programme.

She has implied that doctors are responsible for the rising cost of the medical service and poor organization in the hospitals. Many hospitals are very old, dilapidated, overcrowded and understaffed. Some patients often have to wait months for x-rays or appointments with specialists.

Dr Manuel Machado Macedo, president of the Portuguese Medical Association and director of the prestigious Santa Cruz hospital, which carried out Portugal's first heart transplant, told *The Times* that the association fully supports the strike called by the doctors' union.

"The strike is justified", he said. "It is the only way we have of showing that we do not agree with the campaign against doctors. We are against the Minister's system of naming hospital directors without consulting the doctors. We also believe that the

(hospital) directors should be medical doctors". Dr Machado Macedo claims that many of the new hospital directors have been appointed because they are sympathisers of the Health Minister's Social Democrat Party and that they have received higher salaries and many fringe benefits not available to others.

He also points out that many of them are not doctors. "For example, the new director of the Castelo Branco hospital is a 69-year-old retired military man". Dr Machado Macedo himself is being removed from the



Senhora Beleza: A two-year war with medical profession. directorship of Santa Cruz after 10 years and is reportedly being replaced by a former bank director.

He said doctors forced to work exclusively in hospitals would find it difficult to support themselves on the monthly wage of 90,000 escudos (£350). The strike was "the only way to protest against the autocratic behaviour of the Minister of Health".

Hospitals all over Portugal reported between 80 per cent and 100 per cent of their doctors on strike. Only the emergency, intensive care and kidney dialysis wards were functioning, together with some children's wards because of a serious measles epidemic. Health centres were closed.

Korean talks off

Panmunjom (Reuter) — Negotiations intended to arrange an unprecedented meeting between the prime ministers of North and South Korea ended amid a bitter dispute over Seoul's annual war games with US forces. "It is absurd for us shaking hands with you while you are pointing bayonets at our hearts," said Mr Paik Nam Jun of North Korea.

Killer jailed

Montreal (Reuter) — At a retrial granted because of errors by the original judge, Thomas Brigham, a drifter aged 69, was sentenced to life imprisonment on murder charges arising from the 1984 bombing of the main railway station here.

Labor wins

Sydney — The Labor Party just held Western Australia in state elections, casting doubt on the future of Mr John Howard, the national leader of the opposition Liberal Party.

Oil-slick fight

Santiago (AP) — Chilean frogmen are struggling to stop an oil leak from a partially submerged ship off Antarctica amid reports that thousands of seabirds have already died.

Hassan offer

Brussels (Reuter) — Belgium has accepted the offer of King Hassan of Morocco to mediate in its row with Zaire.

Plane deaths

Moscow (AP) — Eighty-five people were killed last year on aircraft of Aeroflot, the Soviet airline, far higher than the number of the previous year but lower than comparable figures worldwide.

Neo-Nazi ban

Minden (Reuter) — Police in this West German town banned a meeting of the neo-Nazi National Democratic Party because of fears of clashes with protesters.

Heart surgery

New Haven (AP) — Dave Brubeck, the jazz pianist, had successful triple-bypass heart surgery at the Yale-New Haven Hospital in Connecticut.

Kidnap raid

Bagueta (Reuter) — Police used helicopters to raid a ranch in north-western Colombia and free an American and a wealthy Colombian who were kidnapped last month, police spokesmen said.



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PARLIAMENT

Luce backs down on premium library charges

The Government has decided not to go ahead with its controversial proposal to allow councils to launch premium library lending services and to charge for them.

Mr Richard Luce, Minister for the Arts, announcing details of the Government's conclusions after consultation on its Green Paper on libraries, said that he did not think it worth pursuing.

Mr Mark Fisher, Opposition spokesman on the arts, said that this must be one of the most embarrassing climbdowns by any minister in recent times. Mr Luce had had to abandon every proposal in the Green Paper in the face of intelligent criticism from all over the country.

Mr Luce said that the Green Paper moved towards correcting the anomalies of libraries' present charging powers.

Many people who had commented adversely on the contracting-out proposal thought it would be similar to provision of the library service, but libraries would remain responsible for the nature and quality of any services they contracted out.

The only purpose of contracting out is to produce as good a service at less cost or a better service at the same price.

The practicability and value for money of that approach should now be tested. Work should be commissioned to examine the approach involving authorities which had expressed an interest. "If this work seems satisfactory, I will fund some pilot investigations."

He would specify services for which charges could be made by regulations under the enabling power contained in the Local Government Act 1972, now before the House.

The Government had built into the Bill an important safeguard for free access to the library service.

It had excluded from the scope of the enabling power for charges two main elements generally regarded as the core of the free public library service.

Those were the borrowing by any person living, working or studying full-time in the area of an English or Welsh authority — of books, journals and pamphlets available within a library of that authority; and the use for reference and non-circulating material or any catalogue of the authority's own collection.

Mr Luce said that he had not intended to suggest that all the proposals had been rejected was nonsense. He had taken out some, like the premium service, which he did not think worth pursuing, but he had listed in the statement effective measures which he intended to introduce.

"Underneath it all, it must be that Mr Fisher agrees with everything I am doing."

The Government had made clear that it would introduce enabling powers to allow certain areas to be chargeable in local government and that among those would be the library service.

Mr Toby Jassell (Twickenham, C) said that the excellent decision to continue to uphold the enabling power for the library service was a welcome move.

Mr Luce said that he had given the additional safeguard with regard to the core library service.

Derbyshire County Council had said in a "handout" that the Government was planning to charge everybody, even children, for the service. That was a total distortion.

Mr Robert Macdonald, Democrat spokesman on home affairs, said that Mr Fisher appeared to be looking a gift-horse in the mouth. Mr Luce's climbdown was welcome.

Any proposal that there should continue to be a basic free library service would have repelled a capital city like Glasgow and even the late Joe Orton. He would have seen a great deal of sense in charging for damage to library books.

He welcomed Mr Luce's decision to scrap the proposal for a premium book scheme, always a nonsense, and the scrapping of the proposal to charge for books brought in from another library.

"We see in his repentance much cause for rejoicing. We will take it in our stride that he has allowed these matters to be delegated to the Secretary of State for the Environment."

Mr Luce replied that the Government had made plain in the Green Paper its intention to maintain a free basic service.

"What has happened since is that various people have deliberately misrepresented what I said to the Green Paper."

He had made clear that he would introduce a discretionary charge for the restoration of books if they were sent to other libraries. He put a charge of £1.50 on that.

Mr John Bawls (Battersea, C) said the criterion of half an hour for research struck him as being more concerned with the ability of librarians to handle the complexity of the research.

THE ARTS

holdings by any person within a library of that authority.

"This statutory safeguard demonstrates our commitment to maintaining the essential core of a free public library service."

Subject to the statutory safeguard, library authorities would have access to additional sources of income to allow them to improve the service.

The Bill would be used to make regulations to preserve existing powers to charge, to correct certain anomalies, and to introduce modest new charging powers.

Library authorities would be able to decide whether to charge for any service, who to charge and how much. They would have to let users know the scale of charges and consult appropriate bodies.

Library authorities would be given power to charge for obtaining and notifying the availability or non-availability of reserved items, subject to a limit that the Government would prescribe; borrowing of non-print materials; late return of borrowed materials; articles which became the property of the person to whom they were supplied; the use within libraries of facilities such as computers.

It was reasonable that libraries should have discretion to charge for special research services involving their staff in more than half an hour's work.

Mr Fisher said that the Opposition welcomed the fact that Mr Luce had responded to 7,000 representations and had rejected his absurd and dangerous ideas for a premium book service and compulsory tendering for services to old people's homes.

The Opposition also welcomed the fact that libraries would continue to serve companies and corporate bodies, as well as individuals, free of charge.

Mr Luce had not completely wrong in his Green Paper. He had wasted a great deal of public money — and — alas! — my constituents' money.

"This 'unintentional' mistake showed the public how little the Government cared for the public library service as for all other local government services."

Mr Luce said that to suggest that all the proposals had been rejected was nonsense.

He had taken out some, like the premium service, which he did not think worth pursuing, but he had listed in the statement effective measures which he intended to introduce.

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Mrs Virginia Bottomley, the junior environment minister, at St Andrew's-by-the-Wardrobe in London yesterday, where she said the Government would give the Redundant Churches Fund up to £8.7 million over the next five years. St Andrew's is the fund's head office.

Sunday trading campaign 'form of prostitution'

HOUSE OF LORDS

The campaign to remove restrictions on Sunday trading for commercial gain was a form of prostitution, the Bishop of St Albans, Dr John Taylor, said in a Lords debate on the issue.

Poets were divided, however, on whether the laws should be changed and, if so, how that could best be done.

Opening the debate, Lord Boyd-Carpenter (C), president of the Sort Out Sunday campaign to remove restriction on Sunday opening hours, suggested that a Bill should be introduced to deregulate Sunday trading, but with a life of five years.

That would enable those who were genuinely apprehensive about reform to return to the present system after that period if they were proved right.

He said that it was generally agreed that the present law was so riddled with ludicrous aspects and uncertainties that it was unenforceable and largely unenforced. If the law was blatantly ignored because it was ridiculous, it undermined general respect for the law.

The anomalies in the present law were well known. That a shop could, for instance, sell a pornographic magazine but not a Bible. The monks of Buckfast could sell wine and maybe honey on a Sunday, but not a crucifix or a religious book.

About five and a half million people regularly worked on Sunday. Social conditions had changed considerably since the laws were drawn up and now, for instance, many wives worked during the week.

Last Sunday, 15 Anglican and one Roman Catholic cathedral were open and sold items that were in breach of the criminal law. He would not give their names in case it encouraged some busybody to prosecute them.

Nothing could be more abhorrent to the Christian conscience than to be faced with a campaign to remove restrictions on Sundays for commercial gain or to remove spiritual values for ever calling on the church to reinforce its Christian standards.

He could not in any circumstances willingly go along with any proposal that would damage the health of the nation.

Earl Ferrers, Minister of State, Home Office, said that there was little point in the Government's producing a Bill for deregulating Sunday trading unless it had a reasonable chance of surviving.

Mr Timothy Renton (Home Office minister) had been considering a variety of proposals for partial deregulation to make it legal, for instance, to open for part of the day or for particular shops or goods to be sold. However, there was no one proposal that was not without its disadvantages.

Mr Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, said that the Government was not in a position to negotiate with the Palestinians on the basis of their need to co-ordinate the Israeli of their situation.

In a sense, formal amendment would be an additional help in that process, but I urge the Israelis to concentrate on the actual realities that have emerged.

Mr Richard Page (South West Hertsfordshire, C) said that he was one of five MPs who had just returned from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

On our visit there, we did not find one Palestinian who did not accede to the fact that Israel has a right to live within secure borders."

Would Sir Geoffrey make every effort to persuade Israel to come to the conference table at an international peace conference to bring peace to this region?

Sir Geoffrey said that he all wished to see Israel achieving security behind secure and recognized borders just as they wished to secure the right of the Palestinians to self-determination.

Mr Kaufman said that Mr Arafat had told him that he was ready to discuss the Palestine issue with the Israelis at an international conference.

Violation of rights 'a stain' on Israel

The violation of human rights by Israel was a stain on the reputation of a nation that prided itself on being a liberal democracy, Mr Gerald Kaufman, chief Opposition spokesman on foreign affairs, said during question time.

He said that, instead of making excuses not to talk to the Palestinians, Israel ought to be much more concerned about the international condemnation of the violation of human rights to which the US State Department had drawn attention.

"It is about time that, instead of killing and arresting Palestinians, the Israelis should try to achieve a situation in which their security is protected and maintained by talking to the Palestinians and making peace."

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, said that all friends of Israel would like to see her facing the facts and being ready to meet the Palestinians halfway.

He said that exchanges in the House, during which MPs urged Israel to go to the negotiating table, emphasized the extent to which she was losing good will and losing time.

Mr Peter Archer (Warley West, Lab), who opened the exchanges, said that the Palestine covenant was a binding term, binding on all PLO spokesmen unless and until amended by a two-thirds majority.

Israel would have genuine problems in negotiating with those who still had it on record to settle for nothing less than Israel's destruction.

Sir Geoffrey said that the covenant had not been formally repealed or amended, but it had been, in the words of a senior adviser to Mr Yasser Arafat, "superceded" by the decisions of the Palestine National Council.

Mr Arafat undoubtedly took the same view. It was important to concentrate attention on the present reality.

"The Palestinians have moved. The best way to test their intentions is to negotiate. Of course, he is right to say that the Palestinians need to co-ordinate the Israeli of their situation."

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Rail improvements announced

TRANSPORT

The following report of a Commons debate on an Opposition motion on transport appeared in later editions yesterday.

Proposals to improve rail services in the South-east and East Anglia were announced by Mr Paul Channon, Secretary of State for Transport, during the debate.

He said that Network SouthEast had been given approval to buy 77 new Class 321 "Newport Turbo" vehicles for services out of St Marylebone. The cost would be £39 million. Delivery of the first new stock was expected in October 1990.

He had also approved electrification of the Cambridge-Kings Lynn line and the associated purchase of new Class 321 electric multiple units at a cost of £20.1 million.

In the next few years investment in British Rail would rise to an average of £755 million a year.

Mr John Prescott, chief Opposition spokesman on transport, opening the debate, moved a motion condemning Government policy, which, it said, had led to congestion, higher fares, a poorer public transport services and reduced safety.

He said that 10 years of Conservative ideology and Conservative privatization, competition, deregulation and huge cuts in public financial support had produced nightmare conditions for car drivers, bus, train and plane passengers, as well as increasing insecurity.

The situation could only get worse.

Government promises would not deal with the expected 25 per cent growth in cars by the end of the century, or the 15 per cent increase in lorry journeys.

The average speed of road traffic in inner cities had declined from 25mph when Labour had been in office to 18mph to 12mph today.

Mr Thatcher promised us Victorian standards and now we have them. We are as fast as the horse and cart of 1900 years ago. When she said she intended to put Britain back on its feet, I did not understand that meant it would be walking because it was faster than using the public transport system in our inner cities."

Mr Channon moved an amendment repealing the Government's decision on the motion that safety and security should remain paramount and congratulating it on record levels of investment in roads and railways. He said that the Government had to promote international action on air safety and with the United States Government had sought a ministerial meeting of the International Civil Aviation Organization.

"I want to see tighter control of what is taken on to an aircraft. I want to see tighter controls on people who have access to aircraft. I want to see changes to aircraft design so that they have fewer places to hide bombs and I hope that we can move closer to such action in Montreal next week."

On safety, cutting corners was socially and commercially irresponsible and there was no doubt in the minds of public sector operators about where their duty lay.

On congestion, the Government would accept responsibility for having created the healthy economy and a competitive transport market which had led to a huge upsurge in transport demand if Labour would accept responsibility for their years of under-investment.

Mr Mendis Campbell, for the Democrats, said that in the South-east there was clearly a need for huge investment plus a recognition of the necessary interdependence between modes of travel. That could not be achieved without central direction and investment.

Mr Christopher Smith (Islington South and Finsbury, Lab) said that the Government should introduce three measures to safety and with the United States Government had sought a ministerial meeting of the International Civil Aviation Organization.

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Opposition debate on science

Labour attacks research policy

DEVELOPMENT

The following report of a Commons debate on an Opposition motion condemning the Government's failure to support the science budget appeared in later editions yesterday.

Government policy on science and scientific research was strongly criticized during an Opposition debate in the Commons.

Mr Jack Straw, chief Opposition spokesman on education, said that the results of the policy were stark. The sharpest decline had been in our ability to compete with other nations in science-based goods.

Moving the nation, he said that science was of central importance to Britain. Yet we spent less of our national income on science than did other countries.

Many good academics were being driven by their feet, a serious shift in quality across the Atlantic.

Central to the problem of recruiting and retaining the best was the question of university pay. University teachers had an overvalued position in the economy.

Without well qualified science students, this country would slip into Third World decline. The attitude to science in the curriculum and the supply of science teachers was one of complacency and neglect.

Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science, said that by a supreme irony the Opposition had decided to have this debate on the very day that he was announcing big increases in funding for scientific research. For 1989-90 the total would be £1.6 billion, or 16 per cent higher than this year. Since this Government took office the science budget had increased by more than 26 per cent in real terms. That compared with no increase in real terms between 1976 and 1980. The Government's commitment to science was absolute.

Mr Simon Hughes, Democrat spokesman on education, said that it would be foolish not to acknowledge the Government's neglect of science. However, the pattern suggested that this would be a "flip" rather than a fundamental change of direction because beyond the forthcoming financial year there was a falling off in real terms in investment in science.

After nearly 10 years in office the Government had still not produced a strategy for science.

"We are in a state of profound national crisis. There is not sufficient money for research, specifically for basic research. Nor do we have the people being brought into science at school or at university as students or teachers."

Mr Anthony Coombs (Wyre Forest, C) said that the Government was right to say that industry should fund more of its own basic research.

Mr Robert Jackson, Under Secretary of State for Education and Science, said that the Government was promoting a closer relationship between academic science and industry, providing industry's commitment to research and development, and a more coherent approach to the management and direction of the science base.

"Those policies are part of a successful strategy for continuing excellence in British science and for the revival of British industry."

The motion was rejected by 279 to 212 — Government majority, 67, and a Government amendment carried by 270 to 206.

Government gives further £1½m for Afghanistan aid

The Government has agreed to provide an extra £500,000 of aid for mothers and children in Afghanistan, Mr Christopher Patten, Minister for Overseas Development, said in answer to a private notice question.

The money was to be divided equally between Unicef and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Mr David Wintzell (Walsall North, Lab) said that it would be unobjectionable for outside governments to look on while people starved in Afghanistan because of the political situation. It was essential for Britain to co-operate fully with the UN to ensure that aid continued to be given.

Would Mr Patten comment on the report that factions of the resistance movement were threatening to fire on aircraft bringing in aid?

Mr Patten: We have not, do not, and will not ever use the denial of food or medicines to try to accomplish political objectives.

He said that Britain had been one of the first and most generous contributors to the camps for Afghan refugees and would continue to assist as and when possible.

Mr Patten said that a British mission in Pakistan was discussing that point with the UN co-ordinator. Britain would give assistance as was possible so that the mines, which represented a big danger to the returning refugees, might be cleared.

Mr David Steel, Democrat spokesman on foreign affairs, welcomed the statement that humanitarian aid should be given regardless of political difference.

Mr Dennis Skinner (Bolsover, Lab) said that there was no point in sending food while Britain was using agencies to send arms and weapons of war through Pakistan to keep the fighting going.

Mr Patten said that Britain's record to Afghanistan was as good as anyone's.

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MPs criticize £10 fee for access

SOCIAL SECURITY

There was criticism from MPs of the way that the Government was implementing a private member's Act to allow people access to their personal social services files.

In a debate on the Access to Personal Files (Social Services) Regulations, 1988, which lasted into the early hours of Wednesday, Mr Tom Clarke, Opposition spokesman on personal social services, said that there were displays grudging indifference even hostility to Acts which are on the statute book as a result of action by private members.

The regulations give individuals access to their personal files held by social services, with certain safeguards imposed. The Access to Personal Files Act was sponsored by Mr Archie Kirkwood (Roxburgh and Berwickshire, Dem).

Mr Clarke said that the Act had arisen because it was the will of both Houses. However, under the regulations local authorities could charge individuals up to £10 for the information in their files, depending on their assessment of the person's means. "This means test has the whiff of the poll tax about it."

The regulations did not seem to put any obligation on local authorities to inform people when parts of their records were withheld.

People had a right to know when information was not released.

The Data Protection Act gave people a right of appeal to a regulator and ultimately to the courts. Ministers should address this area of concern.

Mr Roger Freeman, Under Secretary of State for Health, said that the £10 fee was a maximum discretionary sum open to local authorities to charge. He added: "They will not take into account... ability to pay."

Local authorities had been aware of the need for greater access to records since 1983 and should have made provision for it.

It was right that safeguards on the release of information were built into the regulations. Exceptions would be exceptional and would apply only to exceptional cases.

There was a right of appeal, along the way the legislation was implemented, to the local government ombudsman or to the courts.

The regulations were approved by 72 votes to 1 — Government majority, 71.

Mandela call by Chalker

Nelson Mandela should be unconditionally released, not just to the place where he is now held, Mr Lynn Chalker,

SPECTRUM

England's renaissance man?

THE TIMES
PROFILE

TED DEXTER

On the face of it, the guardians of our summer game have taken leave of their senses. They are proposing to put the England cricket team in the hands of a man who can frequently be seen gambling away his spare hours on the dog track and the race course, whose preferred mode of transport has long been a giant motor cycle and whose stated views on the touchy subject of barmaids in Test cricketers' rooms are that they must be "extremely good looking". Fortunately, to categorize Edward Ralph Dexter as a cavalier *dilettante* would be akin to confusing a thoroughbred with a pit pony. There is, and always has been, very much more to the Dexter repertoire than the casually given image of an adventurer with restless, if not reckless, instincts. Dexter, in fact, is one of those infuriating people who have an instinct for success, an untutored talent for anything to which they turn their hands. He has been a lucky man, through being in a position to enjoy life, but no one could accuse him of wasting his opportunities. At the age of 53, Ted Dexter does not have too many failures to reflect upon. The cricket authorities, in nominating him for a job which might be described as managing director of our Test team, are gambling on him running up to form.

The job would not appeal to everyone. Indeed, such were the ragged edges which appeared on the previous chairman of selectors, Peter May, when poor results brought relentless pressures, that certain candidates have run for cover at the approach of the headhunter. May, however, can be compared to Dexter only in as much as both were middle-order batsmen who captained Cambridge University and England. May's problems in the job emanated from the suspicion that he was not entirely at one with the modern game and the fact that he was a painfully poor commu-

nicator. Dexter not only has boundless opinions on contemporary cricket, he also has the ability to transmit them.

Dexter will need all his considerable powers of oratory and invention to help transform the England team. A dangerous slide has set in during the past two years, culminating last summer in another crushing defeat by the West Indies, during which four captains and more than 30 players were used. Dexter does not promise overnight cures but he has plans laid for the creation of a contracted squad system, a network of experienced talent scouts and, despite the barmaid joke, sterner response to dissent and discipline.

He is not given to ducking a challenge, whether in sport or business. To him, this may be both. Previously, selectors have received only a small daily remuneration. Dexter, it is proposed, will be compensated for the television commentating and journalism he will have to relinquish. He can expect a minimum of £30,000 a year, plus expenses, and the public relations work of his company Ted Dexter Associates, with which he will continue, can expect a healthy boost from the attendant kudos.

It would be quite wrong, however, to infer that Dexter has eyes only for the money; he habitually puts interest above income in his priorities. He will do the job because, in his own words, "I have a gut attraction to it."

Dexter will ruffle feathers. One could detect a thousand traditionalist mustaches twitching indignantly at some of his remarks during last week's candid Press conference. There were those, too, who felt he was being arrogantly presumptuous in holding court when his appointment will not be ratified for another month. Dexter gives a resigned shrug to such stuffy bureaucracy. "The alternative was to keep saying 'no' and comment, and I have over believed that achieves anything."



Dexter has always been an appealing figure. As a player he was pure box office. The *Wisden Almanack* of 1961 lavished the following compliment on him: "No English cricketer since the war has so captured the imagination of those inside, outside and far from the boundary ropes of our big cricket grounds." The reason, as well as his handsome features and dismissively powerful batting, could be that he was much more than simply a cricketer. Dexter could hold his own in many spheres. Cricket did not own him.

Indeed, he once admitted: "I never watched a first-class game until I began to play it." He might easily have been claimed by commerce, for his father ran a successful insurance business in Italy where Ted was born. Equally, he might have become a professional golfer, a pilot or a politician. He has even co-authored a thriller, *Testkill*.

As a boy, his school holidays were devoted to golf on the glorious lakeside courses of Italy. He would play 54 holes a day and, imitating his temperamental father,

fly into rages at every hooked drive or missed putt. He was later to control his temper and improve his golf to such an extent that he narrowly failed to qualify for the 1978 Open Championship. He was beaten in a play-off for the last place and reacted badly. The clubs went into a cupboard and there they stayed for the next six months. He has flown his own plane, as well as coming close to flying on his own mighty motorbike. Sitting in a car, like ordinary people, has always seemed fearfully mundane to him. His attrac-

BIOGRAPHY	
1935:	Born May 15 in Milan, educated at Radley College and Jesus College, Cambridge
1958:	England debut against New Zealand
1959:	Flown out to Australia as replacement on first tour
1959-63:	Captain of Sussex
1962:	Captained England in first of 30 Tests
1963:	Married Susan, one son, one daughter
1965:	Stood for Parliament as Conservative candidate in Cardiff
1968:	Retired from cricket and set up public relations company, Ted Dexter Associates
1988:	Prospective chairman of selectors, almost certain to be appointed

tion to politics, however, was a brief flirtation and, untypically, a defeat. He stood for Parliament as a Conservative in the constituency of Cardiff. His principal opponent was James Callaghan. Callaghan won by a landslide.

Dexter's penchant for gambling is evident in much of his life. He admits to having occasionally lost sizeable sums of money on the golf course. He has made frequent forays into the perilous pleasures of owning greyhounds and race horses (he currently has a disappointing hurdler) and he is not averse to backing his animals with hard cash. Regulars at Windsor race course, close to his Ealing home, or Wembley greyhound stadium, count him among their number.

His passion for racing has produced its share of humour. While captaining Sussex, Dexter found himself confined to a session in the field on a Derby day. Having had a modest interest in a certain horse, Dexter made careful plans to coincide the drinks interval with the race time and instructed the Twelfth Man to smuggle a radio on to the field under a towel. All initially went to plan, but then the saddle slipped on one of the runners, the start was delayed and so the drinks interval at Hove stretched on and on to the bewilderment of all spectators.

One astute observer of the Dexter personality is John Snow, who arrived at the Sussex club as a tearaway fast bowler in Dexter's era as captain. He reflects: "Some people found him aloof. There was one Sussex player who swore that Ted over spoke to him apart from giving him directions on the field. I am sure this was not deliberate. Ted was a man of moods, often caught up in theories, keen when the action was

hot, uninterested when the game was dull." Interestingly, in the light of his imminent job, Dexter's impact on Snow became more personal. Snow recalls that when he first played for England, in 1965: "Ted virtually talked me through the game, encouraging and advising constantly."

Dexter's theories can sometimes be whimsical. When leading England to Australia in the winter of 1962-63, a journey undertaken by ship, Dexter asked the Olympic athlete Gordon Pirie to supervise training on board. Fred Trueman, for one, was not amused by the insistence of Pirie that he should run endlessly round the deck and give up eating steaks in favour of nuts and lettuce. Murray was narrowly avoided.

That same tour, however, gave Dexter his abiding memory from his cricket career. England won the Melbourne Test, the captain scoring 93, and Dexter recalls that the achievement dawned on him while sitting in the team bus outside the ground. "It was the greatest sense of relief that I have ever had in cricket."

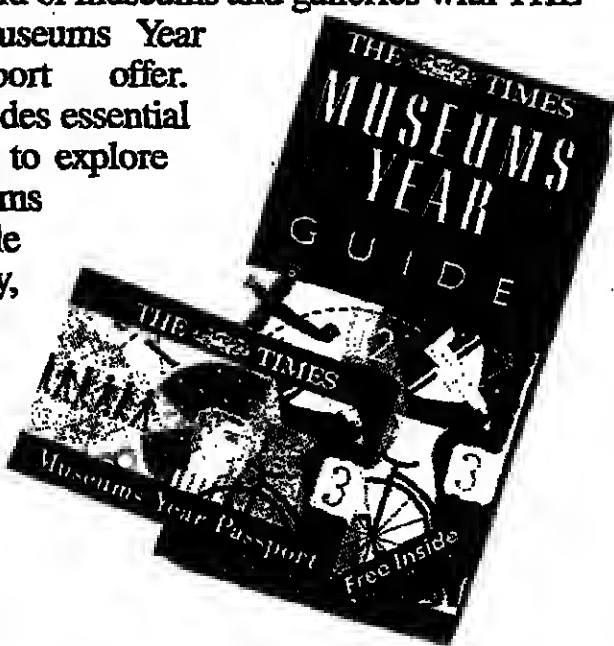
Dexter will hope to surpass that feeling this summer. Australia are England's visitors and if, as expected, Dexter is given wide-ranging powers to go with the public accountability of his job, then victory would be the sweet fulfilment of another ambition, one more challenge conquered. And if not, if the depression over the England team deepens and Dexter is the target of abuse? Then, he says simply: "I shall retreat to the bosom of my family and find someone who loves me." The sticks and stones of public expectation will, you suspect, not injure "Lord Ted", whether or not his revolution brings the desired results.

Alan Lee

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THE TIMES

At first glance it looks like any other Oxford undergraduate's study: books and papers piled here and there, a poster of Lenin - memento of a boyhood flirtation with Marxism - glaring across at a Stars and Stripes, swapped for a Union Jack during a holiday jaunt across America.

Then you notice a telephone on a desk in the corner; and, even more remarkable, a secretary to answer it. But Patrick Robertson, aged 20, is no ordinary student. Rooms 1818, overlooking the tranquil quadrangle of Keble College, is the birthplace and headquarters of the Bruges Group, which held its inaugural meeting at the Reform Club yesterday. It is an organization dedicated to what Robertson, its secretary, sees as the most pressing issue on the political agenda: "Preserving British sovereignty against the insidious campaign by the Brussels bureaucrats and certain EEC leaders, not to mention some politicians at home, to drag us into a federal Europe."

Tall and eloquent, he insists he is not anti-European. His modern history studies at Oxford, impressing on him the strength of nationalism throughout Europe, helped alert him to the dangers not only for Britain, but all other EEC members, of attempting to

Bruges boy fights back

How the threat of a federal Europe sparked off a very British crusade



Robertson: not anti-European

as a near neighbor, could be damaging for a transatlantic maritime nation like Britain.

"Few people are aware of the dangers. The Bruges Group wants to start a national debate and ensure that the people's wishes are made clear."

Robertson realized that few would listen to a 20-year-old undergraduate and began a campaign that has roped in some of Britain's best-known academics. Members include Norman Stone, professor of modern history at Oxford, professors Patrick Minford, Kenneth Minogue, Stephen Haseler, Roger Scruton and

Adam Zamoyski. After hearing him speak at the Oxford Union, Robertson approached Lord Harris of Highcross, chairman of the Institute of Economic Affairs, who agreed to become chairman. Robertson says it is only by chance that most are luminaries of the radical right.

He sees two events adding urgency to the situation: the EEC summit and the Euro Elections, both in June. "Mrs Thatcher must go to Madrid with greater backing for her line than she has had so far."

Robertson accepts that the campaign and life at Oxford are minimal. So he will move out at the end of this term, on the understanding that he can return for his final four terms next year. In London he will redouble his efforts to attract new members and sponsors.

He says a career in politics has "definite appeal, though not necessarily as an MP. I am more interested in helping to shape public opinion."

Keble College is named after the Victorian churchman who helped to initiate a great debate on the Church of England's place in the Christian community. It is not too fanciful to imagine that one day rooms 1818 will bear a plaque commemorating the man who helped to resolve Britain's place in Europe and the world.

Laurie Weston

Turning our heritage away

Had it been a Titian coming up for sale in Italy, there would be no cause of concern. The Italians ban the export of all heritage items. Had it been a Toulouse-Lautrec, up for auction in France, a curator from one of the national museums would have jumped up crying "pre-empted" as the hammer came down. That is how the French state exercises its right to protect its heritage, by buying items at market price.

As it is, the focus of this tale is "Seascope, Folkestone," a mighty seascope by Turner, our most important artist, and once the pride of Lord Clark's collection. We stood by as it sold at Sotheby's in 1984 for £7.3 million. We shrugged as the anonymous new owner placed it on loan at the National Gallery of Scotland. Now that he wants to export it, we accept his revised valuation of £20 million, weekly impose our customary export stop of six months (this will be reduced to one, if no museum shows interest), and wonder where we can find that sort of money.

When it comes to heritage protection, there appear to be as many systems as there are countries, and none is ideal. Plundered through the cen-



Sarah Jane Checkland

artfile

A weekly look at the art world

for the study of some particular branch of art, learning or history?"

What good are these if the object is beyond the nation's budget? What good is the committee's advice if, having had their first application treated unfavourably, owners can re-apply to the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry who has sole discretion on whether or not to grant a licence?

"The Reviewing Committee has become a farcical body because no museums have the sort of money required," says a national museum director. "The only way the Waverley Criteria worked was when the government made money available to buy." This speaker believes the government should set up a commission to look into the problem. Perhaps the best commission of all is that based in Brussels. The minefield of artistic patrimony has not been considered by the EEC, but a few commissioners have broached

the question. "The principle of free movement will have to be reconciled with the need to ensure adequate protection," Italy's Carlo Ripa di Meana said in Rome last December. He favoured an inventory of national treasures, publicly or privately owned. Works would be catalogued according to whether they were of no national importance, important works which would be allowed for export following authorization, and works whose loss "would be detrimental to the area's cultural identity and to the works of art themselves."

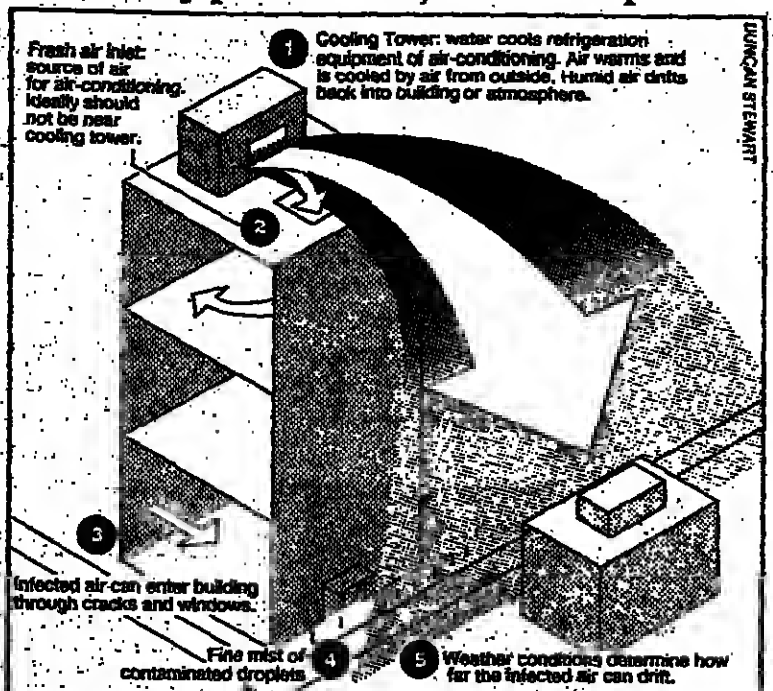
Some people argue that the Turner is not worthy of campaign, because London is so well endowed with his bequest paintings at the Tate. Apart from ignoring the fact that our other capitals, Edinburgh and Cardiff, suffer from a lack of oil paintings by the master, they are forgetting the future crises in store.

There must be a way of combining the best of all the present European systems: establishing a list in each country of supreme heritage items which should never be allowed to be exported, but otherwise allowing the art market to breathe.

HEALTH

The hot and cold running nightmare

A new outbreak of legionnaire's disease has renewed alarm. But the killer disease is entirely preventable, Liz Gill reports



Deaths in the air: some of the ways that legionnaire's disease can spread statistically more at risk from the traffic.

In the wake of the Staffordshire outbreak, the Public Health Laboratory Service surveyed 180 hotels and hospitals. It found that the organism, *Legionella pneumophila*, was present in the water system of two thirds of the hospitals and about half the hotels.

The rod-shaped bacterium — the name means lung-loving — was unknown until 1976, when a group of delegates attending an American Legion Convention in Philadelphia was struck down by a mysterious type of pneumonia. Twenty-nine of them died, and within six months scientists had isolated the responsible agent, named the disease and laid the blame on contaminated bathroom fittings at the hotel.

When doctors tested serum that had been frozen from earlier, undiagnosed cases where the symptoms had been similar, they found that there had been incidents going back at least to the 1940s.

Since then there have been between 150 and 200 cases a year with a death rate of around 10 per cent in Britain.

Although healthy young people can succumb, the disease primarily attacks older age groups, especially the over-fifties and those whose resistance is already weakened by conditions such as diabetes, cancer, alcoholism and chronic respiratory problems or kidney disease. Anyone taking drugs which interfere with the body's immunity system is also at risk, as are heavy smokers whose lung repair mechanisms are damaged. Men are three times more likely to be infected than women for reasons not yet understood. Children are rarely victims and there is no evidence that contact affects the unborn child. The disease cannot be caught by person-to-person contact or by drinking water.

The degree of risk is influenced by such factors as humidity and sunshine (the bacteria survive longer if the humidity is above 65 per cent and they are sheltered from direct sunlight), wind speed and direction (the most distant victim in this country was 1.6km from the source), and

length of exposure to the organism. Someone may walk in a steamy bath longer than he will stand in a shower; a shopper passing a cooling tower in a matter of minutes will obviously be less at risk than the office worker who sits inside for eight hours. Symptoms can manifest themselves between two and 10 days after exposure. The illness may start like a cold, but rapidly progresses to fever, aches, coughing and breathlessness. Patients frequently suffer vomiting and diarrhoea and about half become confused or delirious. "I've known patients who have seen little men coming out of the television or flies everywhere," Fallon says.

If the correct diagnosis is made quickly the outlook is favourable. Legionnaire's disease responds well to the right antibiotics, usually Erythromycin; the survival rate is 90 per cent, and long-term side effects on the kidneys and respiratory system are comparatively rare. Fallon stresses that there are no hidden chronic effects of exposure to a source. "It's not like radiation, for instance. If you feel well, you are well."

The main advantage of an epidemic is that doctors are on the alert; problems generally arise when a misdiagnosis is made. Without the right treatment death can be rapid.

Once a case is established by tests of the patient's blood, urine or sputum the communicable diseases surveillance centre would generally (at the discretion of the GP) be notified and "everyone would be on the look-out for another case", Fallon says.

Otherwise the more cases, the easier it is to determine the source, but if you contract it abroad during a holiday at a hotel, for example, patients could be scattered to the four corners of the earth.

Legionnaire's disease is not notifiable in England and Wales but has been notifiable in Scotland since the beginning of the year. However, a laboratory discovering positive samples would tell its regional communicable disease surveillance centre, which in turn would communicate regularly with other such centres. The alarm may be raised at any stage, Fallon says, by a GP, a laboratory or a centre.

"It would depend on the circumstances. If you had a case in a provincial city of a man who had not been abroad recently, followed by another case a few days later, you would certainly start looking. But if you had a case of a patient who had been in hospital for the past 10 days you would start looking at once on the basis of that one case, because you would know the source must be in the hospital."

There is no international system of communication on outbreaks of the disease as yet, but a start has been made in Europe with the setting up of a working party made up of members of several countries. The body aims to exchange information and improve communications about the disease.

The latest outbreak has been traced to rooftop cooling towers in the southern part of Leicester Square. Sixteen have been closed pending tests and there has been mounting pressure for tougher legislation to compel owners to make such towers safe. At present the system relies on self-regulation: guidelines from the Health and Safety Executive do not have the force of law, but if health has been endangered failure to comply could be grounds for prosecution. Only last week the BBC was fined £3,600 for endangering public health.

It is possible to build cooling towers that use dry air rather than water, but replacing the thousands of water-cooled types already in existence would be vastly expensive and probably unrealistic. Nor would it solve the problem of contamination in hot water systems in buildings.

Peter Scully, technical secretary of the Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers, says: "When you have an outbreak people start running around like chickens with their heads cut off. In between no one takes any of the information that is available."

His organization has produced a guide, "Minimising the Risk of Legionnaire's Disease", which spells out the dangers and the remedies. "The problem is exacerbated by modern office practices. All these computers generate an enormous amount of heat which must be expelled, hence the need for the towers. But it's really only a problem if people cut down on maintenance."

Key areas include regular draining, cleaning and disinfecting with biocides, and the removal of dirt and organic debris which is food for the bacteria. Cheap, effective tests now exist which can determine the presence of *Legionella* in a matter of hours. New designs or modifications of buildings should avoid situations where water can become both tepid and stagnant.

Mike Bailey, occupational safety adviser at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, believes it is important to keep a sense of proportion. "I don't think there are more outbreaks, just more awareness. There are only 15 to 20 deaths a year from legionnaire's disease, as opposed to 60,000 from other kinds of pneumonia."

On the other hand, young and healthy people have died who would not otherwise have got pneumonia, and that is a human tragedy. The disease is entirely preventable. The point is that the guides available are adequate, and people are not doing what they should be doing."

And, Fallon adds, "It is a rare disease but it's also the only kind of pneumonia you can do anything about. With other types it's hard luck, but here you can eradicate the source."

The donation that makes life possible

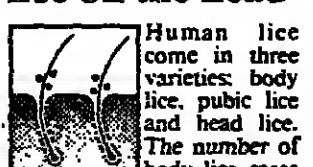
MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttford

Seventy anxious subfertile women will telephone the Lister Hospital in London this month, as they do every month, to find out if their long wait for a donated ovum is over, so that their nerves, carefully primed with the appropriate hormones, can be given the opportunity to nurture an embryo.

Society has accepted that where male infertility is due to deficient sperm, artificial insemination by donor is an acceptable alternative to adoption. However, it has taken longer for society to come to terms with ovum donation, in which ova are donated, fertilized in vitro, and later transferred into the infertile patient. Ovum donation is used for patients who have had a premature menopause, or who carry genes which may be incompatible with having a normal child, or who have failed to ovulate despite appropriate hormonal treatment. Children conceived in this way satisfy the strong desire of many women to experience pregnancy, delivery and breast-feeding by giving them the chance to care for a baby, not just from birth but from conception. Since the donated ovum is fertilized by the husband's sperm it carries his genes, if not hers.

How to knock lice on the head



Human lice come in three varieties: body lice, pubic lice and head lice. The number of body lice cases is increasing, partly due to the use of washing machines' cooler programmes and not ironing clothes. More important, however, is the failure of people to change and clean their clothes frequently and wash regularly. Public lice are usually spread by an unwise choice of sexual partner, but the third group, head lice, have no respect for class distinction.

Last week the Prince and Princess of Wales were warned, along with the other parents from Wetherby School in London, to check their children's hair for nits, the eggs of the lice, as well as the insects. At the same time in Norfolk, the head louse epidemic has so increased Roy and Linda Hibberd, shopkeepers in Wymondham, that they have refused to send their daughter Lorna, aged 8, back to the local state school. They have had to delouse her hair four times in three months.

The views of Dr John Maunder of the Medical Entomology Centre in Cambridge would be equally disturbing to shopkeepers or parents. He feels that epidemics of head lice are not so much maintained in the community in the children's hair where the infection is manifest, but in parents' hair or beards, which are rarely examined.

Diagnosis follows a careful search with a magnifying glass, through which nits can be seen sticking to a hair shaft. In the case of head lice these appear greyish-white. The lice themselves are more difficult to spot, but with care can be seen crawling over the skin. The area behind the ears is often a fruitful area to check. Itching can be a late symptom of head lice; it usually only becomes a problem a couple of months after infection.

Treatment is two-fold: general measures to restrict the spread of lice in the community, and medication for the individual victim. It is quite unnecessary to shave hair, but

Ovum donation is controlled by a voluntary licensing authority, peopled by the great and the good from a wide variety of religious organizations, politics, medicine and university departments of Essex. This authority has decided that ova should not be offered for donation by relatives or friends of the would-be recipients so that total anonymity of any donor is always preserved. For this reason the authority has decided that there should be a delay in the time between collecting the ovum and its fertilization, and its later transfer to the recipient.

The fertilized ovum is frozen for a month after collection, a process which probably doubles the failure rate of the procedure, which in its present form has a 30 per cent chance of success. Three fertilized ova are placed in either the woman's uterus or her Fallopian tubes.

There is a great shortage of ova for transfer, hence the anxious telephone calls each month. Donors have to be of proven fertility, healthy and not at risk from any hereditary diseases. Every effort, compatible with the waiting list, is made to find a donor who is similar in appearance to the would-be recipient.

In general lice prefer long to short hair. The current fashion of growing beards has probably helped the spread of lice. Frequent combing, brushing and washing spoils the habitat for the lice and discourages their presence. Brushes and combs should never be shared; it is far better to appear untidy than risk using the communal hairbrush provided in the cloakrooms of some schools. Once an infestation has occurred, combs and brushes should be boiled.

Over 90 per cent of lice and their nits are destroyed by a single application of medicated shampoo or cream; any survivors are removed by a second treatment a week later. The chemical can be toxic and is potentially irritant so the dose should not be exceeded. Nits from the eyebrows and eyelashes should be removed with tweezers.

A better chance of survival

If Bjorn Borg had wanted to kill himself he may well have chosen the wrong tablets. Original reports suggested that he had taken barbiturates, drugs so potentially lethal that their prescription has been abandoned by most doctors in favour of the medium-acting benzodiazepines, drugs of the valium group which are so safe that most patients who take an overdose wake up after a long sleep.

More detailed later accounts suggested that he had not taken barbiturates but two or three times the standard dose of Rohypnol, which is an intermediate acting benzodiazepine, in a small overdose that would be unlikely to damage a frail old lady, yet alone a tennis star. If a patient had taken three Rohypnol tablets, as Borg maintained, no treatment would be indicated, so long as the medical staff were in a position to believe the account. They suggest that at least 30 pills had been taken. In any case of doubt, and provided that the pills had been swallowed within four hours, a stomach wash-out would be indicated.

If barbiturates had been swallowed, 10 tablets were usually considered the level at which a wash-out was obligatory, but again it is sometimes difficult to believe the evidence given. Barbiturate poisoning, once established, is very difficult to treat; dialysis and forced diuresis are tried, but only have a variable degree of success, and the patient may need artificial respiration. Even so, improved nursing techniques revolutionized the pattern of survival between the 1950s, when barbiturates were widely prescribed, and the 1970s, when they gave way to the benzodiazepines.

Debbie's case illustrates the very important medical lesson, that the sense of hearing is the last of the senses to go. Patients can often hear conversation long after it has appeared to bystanders that they have lost contact with the world. For this reason, too light an anaesthetic can leave a patient pain-free, incapable of movement, talking or seeing and yet able to hear a conversation.

Some time ago a woman who had a forceps delivery under general anaesthetic sued her obstetrician, who observed as he delivered the baby: "Damn it, after all this trouble the baby is as ugly as its mother." The preservation

Tomorrow: Barbara Amiel views the new film *The Accused* and the real and dramatized politics of rape

Brush away a gnawing problem

As Cruft's begins, dog owners should look at the state of their canine's teeth

"Symptoms include listlessness, bad breath or drooling, and an inability to carry a stick as usual. Untreated, these conditions could go on to form root abscesses, which discharge pus from the face or into the mouth."

If bad teeth or diseased gums go unchecked, she adds, they can end up causing systemic infection. "The old dog with bad breath and rotted gums can often have a kidney disorder which kills eventually. It is all preventable."

Penman was a natural choice for the presidency of the association. While there are a few dentists who work with animals, she, as a vet, has the most experience in advanced dental work — root canal fillings, braces, crowns in the country. Three years ago, she interrupted a world tour by stopping off in Denver, Colorado, for two months' tuition with Dr Peter Emily, a leading veterinary dentist.

Now, three out of four patients that she sees as a consultant at two Surrey practices are dental cases. She also teaches other vets. "There are 50 vets from all around the country who are very keen to learn more. We expect our numbers to increase, just as we hope to see a broader base to dental care being taught at veterinary schools."

Penman acknowledges that the best examples of animal teeth are found in the wild, where a hunk of tough zebra meat is the best treatment for keeping bad teeth at bay. In the meantime, pets with the double disadvantage of a pap-soft diet and a life spent mostly in the great indoors may prefer their owners to take the following advice:

- Don't give bones of any description and imagine that they will automatically do teeth some good. Bones can cause broken teeth, chipped teeth, constipation, diarrhoea, or cause obstructions in the digestive system.
- Don't expect teeth cleaning miracles from biscuits, either for cats or dogs.
- Do replace two meals a

week (cats or dogs) with the biggest chunk of snew-packed meat you can buy. Lightly soaked to kill off all the bacteria which raw meat might contain, these chunks of heart or skirt beef should be given whole.

● Do give raw, crunchy vegetables to your dog — cabbage and cauliflower stalks make excellent teeth cleaners.

● Do get a baby-soft toothbrush either from your vet or from the chemist. There is palatable and swallowable animal toothpaste available, too, although tap water is a reasonable substitute.

● Don't expect miracles at first, and don't expect your pet to open wide on command. "Until you and your pet are used to the process, you will probably be best just brushing the outsides for a few seconds and letting the tongue clean the insides. Pattern of sweep is as for our own teeth, up and down and all around, taking in the gums as well as the teeth."

● Don't have a sneak try with human toothpastes under any circumstances. Human paste contains high levels of salt which could be harmful, if meant to be rinsed off and, apart from anything else, it foams and would certainly frighten your pet. And a mouth-foaming frightened dog might give the neighbours strange ideas about which disease you were trying to treat.

Vivien Tomlinson

THE CALEX CAR SEAT COVER



Next time you take your pet's halitosis to the vet, do not be surprised if you are advised to get a toothbrush.

Daily sessions with a baby-soft brush are officially advised by the newly-formed British Veterinary Dental Association and its president, Sue Penman, a 31-year-old Surrey vet.

"More than 85 per cent of dogs and cats over three years old are in need of some dental attention," Penman says.

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TIMES DIARY

ALAN COREN

Mr Kenneth Clarke may rant until he is blue enough in the face to have his GP put him out to cardiologist tender, but he will never convince me that his White Paper is "the most formidable programme of reform in the history of the NHS". I have combed it twice, and it has not one single word to say on the snip-pet relationship.

Last Friday, I popped in to see a friend recovering in the private Cromwell Hospital from an operation serious enough to warrant two television sets, a three-piece suite in cream antelope hide, gold taps in the vaulted bathroom, and a carpet that swallowed the visiting shin, of one of which, sadly, the patient could take advantage, since she was at the time allowed nothing livelier than a supine sack at a right-angled straw. All money down the drain, you and Robin Cook will doubtless cry, but not a bit of it: had my friend not gone privately, anyone with a telescope sight could, from the serried roofs opposite, have plugged her where she helpless lay.

I discovered this from her doctor, who had probably dropped in to see how her current account was getting on. During the course of a chat which, had my car not been on short-term meter, might well have led up to a discreet inquiry as to whether I really needed both kidneys, the doctor revealed that not only were the Cromwell's windows made from bullet-proof glass, but that its high-security suites across the corridor, much used by sickly emirs and the like, had been built to withstand a rocket attack.

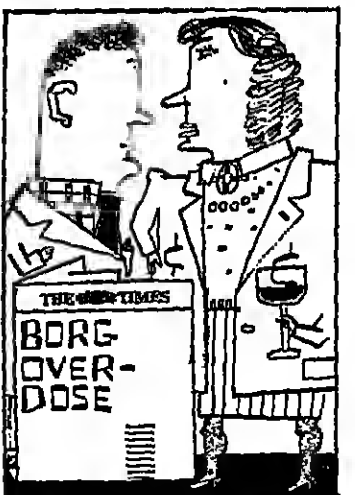
When will we be able to get these essentials on the NHS, Mr Clarke? Verily we are two nations, and no mistake.

Which brings me to Archer's Cheese Syndrome. I have just this very day finished the last crumb of the 3lb Cheddar which Jeffrey Archer sends to a hundred selected victims every Christmas. Now, far be it from me to gibe at generosity of so succulent an order, especially as the cheese is built by none other than Grandmaster Alvis — an artist to whom even Mr William Waldegrave's illustrious chesemaking family depins as Somerset's greatest — but, not to put too fine a point on it, what I get from Jeffrey every Christmas is a cholesterol brick.

Nobody else at home will touch it: they will not even stay in the same room with it, lest their arteries begin furring up. It is thus left to me to slice off 2oz a day and embrace a risk which the great wordsmith has no business at all to make me run. What a pity Jeffrey is not still an MP! He could be hailed before a select committee, like the oo less distinguished Edwina, and made to account for his part in the great Cheddar threat to national wind and limb.

They might even manage to stop him publishing his next book.

BARRY FANTONI



A leading amateur practitioner, I cannot over-emphasize the relief I experienced last Saturday at coming upon a man talking to himself in Cricklewood Lane.

It may be helpful here to set a little of the scene, since for those readers unfamiliar with NW2 the words Cricklewood Lane might not only evoke a fetching image of some sylvan glade, but thereby also suggest a simultaneous explanation of why this chap was raving on, viz., he was a poet who suddenly stumbling upon a host of golden crickets, had begun burbling aloud in the way that poets will. The mundane truth is that Cricklewood Lane is a teeming urban conduit hemmed by seedy Victorian brickery, where the only literary composition on offer comes out of an aerosol quill and makes passing stokers blench.

It was here, foursquare on the littered paving between The Friendly Baker and A. A. Baines Turf Accountant, that he stood, last Saturday noon, and turned his private tropes. As he delivered a monologue both trimly articulated and reasonably argued, he appeared neither tight nor barney; rather, he gave the impression of carrying on a conversation with an old friend who had unaccountably become invisible.

He was perhaps 60, well turned out, and, as I learned while I slowly tied an eavesdropping shoelace beside him, something of an authority on the Vauxhall Cavalier. It was a car which also made him, from time to time, chuckle.

The reason I was relieved was that I had not heard anyone talking to himself in the street for several years. I feared it had died out. When I was young, every other person I passed seemed to be muttering about something, and I'm sure it was good for them to get it off their chests. These days, people tend to bottle things up far too much, which doubtless accounts for the unsettlingly huge increases in stress-related diseases we hear so much about. I should have thought this was an issue crying out for a hit of White Paperwork; but once again, scrutiny proved me wrong.

Last medical shock from this week's casebook. Yesterday, I happened to read that, in answer to a Commons question, the Social Security Minister Mr Nicholas Scott replied that between 1984 and 1988 the number of centenarian men in Britain had gone up from 100 to 210. According to my pocket calculator, if this alarming trend continues, in a mere 66 years' time the entire male population of this country will be over 100.

Nothing about that in the White Paper, either.

Despite the cries of pain issuing from our Inns of Court, the Lord Chancellor's proposals for shaking up the legal profession bring consumers the first real prospect for radical improvements since the 1949 Legal Aid Act gave the poor access to the civil courts.

Reading the Bar Council Chairman's gloom-ridden statement that "the disappearance of a free and independent Bar would be a tragedy in a free society for the ordinary citizen whose interests the Bar has always protected," it is hard not to conclude that the public interest is being confused with self-interest.

For the Green Papers contain much to arouse the enthusiasm of the ordinary citizen: a wider choice of advocates, the chance of briefing a barrister directly, the right to employ bank and building society solicitors in conveyancing transactions, the possibility for all of only paying a lawyer if the case succeeds.

Why are lawyers causing such a fuss?

Take, for example, the proposal that a wider range of advocates should in future be able to appear in the higher courts, including the Crown Court, thereby ending the

Jeremy Cooper answers critics of the Lord Chancellor's proposals

A bar on public interest

monopoly currently enjoyed by the Bar. Some barristers, and even some judges, are already muttering about "lowering of standards" if solicitors and lay advocates are allowed to appear in more courts, but there is no reason for the consumer to share this anxiety.

Many barristers are skilled advocates, and they will no doubt continue to be briefed for their skill. In future they may even be briefed directly by the client rather than through a solicitor, thereby giving clients a greater sense of control over their own cases.

But many consumers do not particularly want a barrister respectfully submitting on their behalf in the gobbledygook language of the court room. They would prefer the solicitor they trust to remain their advocate throughout the case.

The Green Paper proposes to give them this choice. Barristers

specializing in advocacy will continue to play an important role in more complex cases, but the court room will become a more democratic, user-friendly forum with a wider range of advocates helping to reduce its unsettling rituals — rituals that are heavily sustained by the culture of the Bar.

Lord Mackay's proposal that future judges might be appointed from the solicitor community (ten times the size of the Bar) as well as the Bar, will further advance the democratization process.

There are many other potential advantages for the consumer which flow from the proposed loosening of the controls on advocacy and advocates.

At present barristers can only practise as individuals from "chambers" which have to be approved by the Bar, especially if they are outside the Inns of Court. Like barnacles on the

hulk of a ship, the majority cling to the geographical area within a mile or two of the High Court around the Inns of Court. There is not much space left.

The Green Paper points out that "it is absurd that entry to a profession depends upon whether a person can obtain accommodation." It suggests that barristers should be allowed to choose to practise wherever they like. This includes the choice to practise closer to the world of the client.

It further suggests that they should be allowed to set up partnerships, which would allow them to employ more staff, engage in better supervision of newcomers, and provide an element of collective responsibility for their work. Barrister partnerships could be set up as viable businesses, specializing in advocacy, wherever they choose.

It is a system that has worked well in Australia and the

Netherlands for many years.

Another encouraging prospect for the consumer is the possibility of licensing skilled lay advocates in small claims, debt and housing cases in the county courts. Citizens' Advice Bureau workers, social workers and specialists working in independent advice centres are often very well qualified to represent individuals in such matters in County Court actions but are not permitted to do so. The proposed opening up of the rights of all specialist advocates to advertise their particular skills should further assist consumers in matching their needs to the right advocate.

Finally, the Green Paper deals with the need for greater lawyer accountability to the client in the conduct of the case.

It suggests that codes of practice, drawn up by a body dominated by lay representatives, should insist that

clients are kept fully informed about the progress of their case; should understand exactly who is handling it and how, and should be given proper written details about fees and costs as the case progresses. If a case goes to court, advocates must be less long-winded, and identify with greater precision the issues before the case begins.

Most important of all it is proposed that, when a consumer wishes to complain about a lawyer, and the internal complaints procedure does not provide satisfaction, a new and crucially, independent legal services ombudsman will be empowered to carry out an investigation. This is currently the case in the local government, health and banking worlds.

The legal profession, obsessed with self regulation, has always tended to organize itself in such a way that it is heavily insulated from public criticism. The Green Papers contain much that should further the interest of the long suffering consumer of legal services. In responding to its proposals it remains to be seen whether the profession manages to shoot itself in the foot.

The author, a barrister, is principal lecturer in law at the NE London Polytechnic.

Bernard Levin

Popping off with a smile

Mourners at a crematorium, expecting appropriately solemn music, were treated instead to a spirited rendering of that ballad of my youth, Champagne Charlie:

Champagne Charlie is my name,
Champagne drinking is my game...
All I want is lots of fizz, fizz,
I'll drink ev'ry drop there is, is,
All round town it is the same,
By pop, pop, pop I rose to fame,
I'm the idol of the barmy-ids,
And Champagne Charlie is my name.

It seems that the deceased had not only specified the music which was to accompany his passing from the world, but had also taken the precaution of recording it. Unfortunately, he had put it on a tape with other musical matter, and someone in charge of the proceedings had run the machine to the wrong point.

I have to say that if it had been my funeral I would have much preferred the drinking song to the deceased's choice, which was an excerpt from *Götterdämmerung*, presumably Siegfried's Funeral March. For a start, the proceedings are not auspicious; Hitler chose that piece for his self-ending, and the German radio, or what was left of it, then played the damned thing for hours on end.

But this unfortunate error has been made before, more than once or twice. The funeral of Tom Mann, that tireless agitator (he was one of the founders of the British Communist Party), was greatly enlivened when the official in charge of the ceremony (strictly secular, of course) accidentally turned the record over. Mann had naturally specified *The Red Flag*, but the flip-side held a medley of satirical left-wing ditties, and it was one of those that floated out, with dreadful appositeness; Mann, at one stage in his career, had run a pub, and to the horror, outrage and hilarity of the comrades, they heard:

Oh, I am the man, the very fat man,
Who waters the workers' beer...

Or so it is said. (One scandalous version, indeed, has it that Mann had, in his time as a publican, been prosecuted for giving short measure, but this sounds to me like an invention of the capitalist press.)

Another tale of sound and fury is, I believe, less apocryphal; it concerned a most distinguished musicologist and critic. Instructions for the music to be played at his funeral had specified a Bach chorale, but they had been specified over the telephone, and to the amazement of the congregation there was suddenly heard the familiar — all too familiar — plink, plink-plink, plink-plink of the barcarole from the *Tales of Hoffman*.

Axel Munthe, in one of his tales (tales indeed, for he was no mean weaver of whoppers, besides being a Nazi sympathizer), goes further, and tells of two bodies being buried in mutually wrong graves, so that the deceased, in both cases, couldn't understand what the mourners were talking about in their eulogies, besides, presumably, getting cross at hearing the wrong music.

But that brings me to my real purpose today, which is to discuss the extraordinary attitude to death that is now almost ubiquitous in societies like ours. Not just death, but the very notion of death, particularly our own, almost invariably seems to come as an unpleasant surprise, which really is surprising, in view of the fact that even the vaingest of us can hardly believe that it applies only to other people.

We have taken to heart (though in a meaning very different from what the sage intended) the first half of the ancient Chinese rubric — "Live every day as though you are going to die for ever," but we steadfastly refuse to accept the second half: "And live every day as though it is your last."

Why is it that from the earliest



times of which we have any knowledge at all we find that the most solemn and profound ceremonies are those surrounding death? Even the celebrations of harvest or the hunt — which might have been thought to have

a higher priority, since on these life rather than death depended — are less impressive and less central. William Golding, in *The Inheritors*, which is set in a time long before history, includes an astonishingly moving scene of a

funeral — astonishing because the characters in his book are not even *homo sapiens* but the last primates, and moving because Golding's artistry is such as to make us feel both the depth and the almost infinite continuity of the last rites.

Yet a funeral today is likely to be a miserable and uncomfortable affair. A real Christian burial, attended by real Christians, is of course impressive, but, however, Christian the deceased, if the congregation lack the same faith it will be empty. The Jews' Kaddish is a beautiful prayer, but the Jews have the advantage of their religion's attitude to death, symbolized by the feast of rejoicing, not mourning, which follows a funeral: the Lord giveth, and the Lord taketh away, blessed be the name of the Lord.

St Paul said that we brought nothing into this world and it is certain that we can carry nothing out; an obvious truth, though you would be surprised by the number of people who implicitly deny it, up to the millionaire who, told "You can't take it with you," replied "Then I'm not going to go." (Incidentally, I have just read First Timothy, which is where St Paul said it, right through, and am appalled at the sexism; any bishop who said a tenth of such things today would be tarred and feathered by the members of the Equal Opportunities Commission.)

I begin to think that all the arguments about what follows death are not only pointless (which they obviously are, since we shan't know the answer until we die, and we shall know it then), but are standing in the way of a different realization altogether. Let us stop wondering whether our inability to discuss, let alone face, death is the result of the secularization of our society or a suppressed fear that we have in fact not secularized it at all. Let us instead begin to think that the real terror of death, even if nothing but perpetual oblivion follows it, is rooted in what has gone before, not what goes after. Perhaps what haunts our world is the realization of what we have done with our lives.

I don't mean the wrong we have done, the sins committed, the harm left in the wound; the parable of the talents governs not our future, but our past; what have we done, what have we failed to do, with what we had and what we gathered as we went along? We cannot step twice into the same river; even if there is no court before which we shall have to justify our lives, we are, if we have any capacity for thought at all, our own prosecutors, witnesses, judges and juries, and there comes a point, not necessarily the point of death, at which we have finally to stop deceiving ourselves and true deliverance make.

It is that, perhaps, the clue — the clue, that is, to our wretched failure to come to terms with anyone's death, not just our own? Have the symbols withered, the ceremonies faded, because we would bring to them only the realization that we have learned nothing from our lives, so that it is not surprising that we are unable to learn anything from one death? Have we really been looking in the wrong direction all this time?

I can make no judgement on the man who was buried to the wrong music, and I wouldn't make one even if I could. But if his spirit is still, in some category, susceptible to comfort, let him take it from the fact that his friends, when they had got over the shock, must surely have smiled, if only behind their hands, and to leave your friends a legacy of smiles is at least something accomplished.

Will my executors kindly note that although the order of service at my funeral may specify the *St Matthew Passion*, I want a plankster standing by to substitute for it — going further than the man who started this excursion — the *Champagne Aria* from *Don Giovanni*, the *Champagne Chorus* from *Die Fledermaus*, and (even in death I must show off), the *Champagne Invitation* from *Die Bajadere*.

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Commentary • RONALD BUTT

Tory green fingers

Mrs Thatcher will give an interview to the BBC *Nature* programme on March 2. She will face one overriding question. How real are her "green" policies in terms of practical policy? Implicit is a further inquiry: how far is her expressed concern for the environment conviction politics, and how far is it designed to protect the Tory Party from a prevailing wind without too much inconvenience to "the market"?

The scepticism is understandable. In the last Parliament the Government's response to environmental pollution was minimal and offhand. This attitude seemed to be summed up by its refusal to take any action in response to complaints from Scandinavia and Germany that acid rain emissions of sulphur from Britain's power stations brought sickness and death to their forests. How that position came to be adopted and then changed illuminates both the way in which politicians often have to depend for advice on experts with a vested interest, and the importance of a persistent independent monitoring body able to sustain an informed critique of the advisers who have the Government's ear.

The Government's scepticism about acid rain can be chiefly attributed to one episode. Around Christmas 1983, Lord Marshall, chairman of the Central Electricity Generating Board, went to Chequers to be asked by Mrs Thatcher whether Britain's power stations were guilty to any major extent of the damage to the European forests. He convinced her that they were not, that she should take a relaxed attitude to complaints

which were technically unfounded, and that action would mean huge expenditure for no great good, a point decisive in the then economic climate.

What led to the Government's change of mind was the report on acid rain by the Commons Select Committee on the Environment. It contained irrefutable evidence of the environmental damage being done by emissions from British fossil fuel power stations. Initially, there was heavy official scepticism. The vested interests marshalled their forces. But such was the weight of the committee's evidence that the Government accepted the need for a major expansion in research and air monitoring. This brought a change in policy, government research on air pollution, and a programme for de-sulphurizing major power stations and encouraging the use of lead-free petrol in cars. A subsequent air pollution report, which also covered CFC gases and the "greenhouse" effect, shifted government policy still further.

The cause of de-polluting the environment gives Mrs Thatcher a bonus in that it supports her wish to advance clean nuclear power at the expense of dirty coal. But what matters more is her conviction that people really do mind about their environment. She has an acute instinct for feeling and absorbing what the majority of ordinary people feel. That is why she is still in power and why she is unlikely to be dominated by the narrower kind of "market" doctrine.

At the Tory conference she was loudly applauded for declaring that we have no freedom on the earth, but only "a life tenancy with a full repairing

lease" which the Government would honour. This brings us back to the all-party Commons Environment Committee, with its Tory chairman, Sir Hugh Rossi, and a Tory majority, which has contributed crucially to policy-making on a wide range of environmental subjects. Whatever Cobdenites and commercial interests like to think, mainstream Tories in and out of parliament are not concerned only with the environment around their own homes.

Soon after Mrs Thatcher's "green" interview, the Environment Committee will produce its report on hazardous waste, having received much evidence on "cowboy" disposal operations, bad standards of practice and the lack of control over dangerous wastes. It is especially concerned about the "poacher-gamekeeper" role of the "waste authorities". This is also the role of the present water authorities, of which the committee noted in its 1986-7 report that they are "responsible for controlling water pollution by others and simultaneously are significant dischargers to (and polluters of) the water course with effluent from their sewage works."

Whatever can be said against the Government's water privatization plans on grounds of potential damage to the landscape owned by the present authorities and the possibility of foreign take-overs, they have two great merits. Private water companies will be able to go to the market for capital investment, the lack of which is largely the cause of pollution, instead of being constrained by public borrowing limits. Still more important, an independent water authority will

enforce standards on the private companies in a way government departments are reluctant to do against nationalized industries, especially when the remedy is more public money.

Independent powers of regulation are the essential means of dealing with all kinds of pollution. If the thrust of questioning by the Environment Committee is a guide, it is likely, in reporting on hazardous waste, to recommend the setting up of some kind of general independent commission for the protection of the environment against pollution of all kinds. But whether there should be one such agency or several matters less than ending reliance on self-regulation by the chief offenders.

The essence of the problem is vested interests, which first defend themselves by asserting that there is no connection with their own activities and the problem at issue, then try to combat evidence by saying that the connection cannot be formally proved, and finally retreat to the "it is doubtful whether" stage.

The committee should now turn to internal pollution, particularly that caused by unhealthy buildings which are constructed in theory for capital and running cost economies, but where workers function ineffectively when below par and the cost of sickness, personal suffering and lost efficiency is unmeasured. The latest worry about legionnaires' disease in London is only the tip of an iceberg which the "green" committee should now tackle in its vital parliamentary work of representing the citizen against the polluter's vested interest.

FEB 9 ON THIS DAY 1932

Though it was to be several years before compulsory driving tests were introduced in Britain, the Pedestrians' Association believed that such tests were long overdue. It also thought that skidding should be deemed prima facie evidence of dangerous driving.

SAFETY OF WALKERS

The safety of pedestrians was discussed when Mr. P.J. Pybus, Minister of Transport, received a deputation from the Pedestrians' Association yesterday.

A memorandum submitted by the deputation to the Minister stated that the association had deemed it right to suspend final judgment on the effect of the abolition of the speed limit for light cars until complete figures were available showing the results of the first year's working of the Act. "These figures, it was added, are not yet available, but the official information already given confirms common observation and newspaper reports that the roads have been even more dangerous to pedestrians in 1981 than in 1980, which was a record year for accidents. The only detailed official figures so far available to the public are the quarterly returns on street accidents issued by the Metropolitan Police, and these show that during the three quarters ending September last the number of pedestrians killed on the roads had risen from 614 to 648, despite a reduction of 20,000 in the number of motor-vehicle licences issued in the Metropolitan area.

"In particular, newspaper reports point to an increase in

accidents due to skidding, and here the association would stress that skidding should be deemed prima facie evidence of dangerous driving."

The association called attention to the provisions in the Road Traffic Act whereby application can be made to the Minister of Transport for the repositioning of local speed limits, and stated that, should figures prove that in important centres there was no marked diminution in the accidents to pedestrians, and should application be made by the appropriate local authority for the repositioning of speed limits in such centres, such applications would receive sympathetic consideration.

The association adhered to its opinion that driving tests, which were compulsory in every country in the world, with the exception of Belgium and Bolivia, had a definite contribution to make to road safety, and in this respect it was interesting to note that last year 30 per cent. of the applicants for driving licences in France failed to pass the statutory driving tests. Until the question of driving tests had been dealt with by Parliament, the association urged that where accidents had resulted from the incompetence of the driver, owing to physical disability or lack of mad sense, greater restraints should be made to the permanent suspension of licences.

"A matter which is exercising the minds of many persons who interest themselves in the problem of safety on the roads," the memorandum continued, "is the lack of uniformity in the administration of the law, and the many instances in which persons charged with serious motoring offences, in respect of circumstances not substantially in dispute, have been either acquitted or let off with merely nominal punishments."



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CAPPING CRIME

The most remarkable aspect of the British Government's decision to declare war on fraudulent claims for Common Agricultural Policy and other EEC subsidies is that it has taken it so long. For at least a decade it has been suspected that the Mafia were finding the profits from EEC fruit, vegetables, wine and olive oil payments worth their attention. It is four years since the European Commission promised to strengthen its fraud inspectorate.

Closer to home, serious cases of fraud are no novelty and the causes have been extensively discussed. Farmers have been caught since the early 1980s smuggling cattle from Northern Ireland to the Irish Republic and re-exporting them to qualify for EEC refunds worth £100 a cow. It is just over a year since Britain's own National Audit Office reported that the complexity of the regulations governing duties, border taxes, monetary compensation and export subsidies gave ample "scope for irregularity, exploitation and fraud".

The Public Accounts Committee last July pointed to lax procedures and inadequate inspection of goods in Britain. It also pointed out that nobody knows the full extent of CAP fraud since there is no uniform basis for reporting "irregularities". It urged the Government to press in Brussels for reform.

The official, and quite plausible, explanation for the sudden raising of the temperature is that last December's report by the European Court of Auditors has finally caught the Prime Minister's eye. It is, indeed, eye-catching. It estimates the scale of EEC fraud at £2.3 billion a year and cites individual hauls of up to £70 million from the racket.

At European Parliament hearings in Brussels last week the EEC fraud squad (finally created last October, with 12 out of its grand total of 19 inspectors so far appointed) further conceded that the "zone of shadows" was so large as to accommodate 10-20 per cent of the Community budget: that is, up to £6 billion worth of practices such as false descriptions of goods, phoney export certificates, and compensation claims for non-existent commodities.

Britain will again place fraud on the Agricultural Council's agenda on Monday. But calls for "action" are not enough: the Government will have to define its war aims. This will not be easy.

Detecting, and punishing, fraud is up to national governments. The Commission has no powers to prosecute, and its fraud squad's

role is officially to co-ordinate governments' investigations. This is a polite way of saying that its job is to see that governments do not cover up fraud. Absurdly, they have an incentive to do so: if they fail to prosecute, or to recover the money, the Community takes the loss. If they succeed, the money is repayable to EEC coffers.

It is by no means evident that Britain would support a Community "flying squad" to tackle the problem (as M. Delors has suggested). Any federal policing system would raise broader issues of sovereignty. At the same time, the British preference for efficient national customs and excise controls has to deal with the evident failure of national bureaucracies to control the traffic.

Complexity, the National Audit Commission and the EEC auditors agree, is the accomplice of crime. The central thrust of short-term British policy should be to get the Commission to disentangle 32 years' accretion of red tape. Offenders should no longer be able to plead simple confusion. Member-states should, as the Commission recommends, assume some responsibility for the funds lost through fraud, whether or not they initiate prosecutions. Penalties should be increased.

But the heart of the affair is the CAP itself. It exists to cushion EEC farmers from the market-place, through protecting them from imports, paying them to produce at above world prices, and getting rid of the resulting surpluses either by feeding them to animals or dumping them on world markets.

This costs the average family of four £9 a week for overpriced food and £4.50 in taxes to finance the CAP. It also creates a maze of subsidy to be fraudulently exploited. Official market rigging has created a criminal sub-stratum.

Reforms could help to reduce the scale of fraud. But the CAP, short of recruiting legions of extra bureaucrats, is unpoliceable. Agricultural ministers have just taken the first tentative steps towards financing farmers not by subsidising production but by protecting rural incomes. It is a first step towards a form of subsidy less open to abuse than the CAP.

In the short term, crime must be tackled. But consumers and taxpayers would benefit by returning farming to the market-place where, under the Treaty of Rome, it surely belongs. The CAP's cornucopia of cash should be removed from the shop window.

ON THE SEVENTH DAY

Mrs Thatcher is often presented, however inaccurately, as a politician who is determined to force through unpopular measures against the will of the majority. On the question of Sunday trading, however, the situation is almost the exact reverse.

Opinion polls show at least two-thirds would welcome the freedom to shop on Sunday without restriction. Yet the Government was forced to withdraw its Sunday Trading Bill in 1986 in the face of a determined minority campaign, and is wary of raising another hornet's nest with a further attempt at legalising unrestricted Sunday trading.

On one thing practically everyone is agreed: the anomalies of the present law should not be allowed to continue. The 1950 Shops Act forbids Sunday trading in England and Wales except for certain specified items which today constitute a bizarre list. Fodder for mules may be obtained but supermarkets are closed for groceries. Bibles are not on sale but semi-pornographic magazines are. Enforcement of the law is left to local authorities, with the result that in some areas it is strictly observed while in others it is openly flouted.

The Conservative election manifesto contained a commitment to bring sense and consistency to the Sunday trading laws, and a year ago Mr Timothy Renton, Minister of State at the Home Office, called for submissions on the subject. The Government is now delicately sounding out its back-benchers on what kind of reforms might command a majority in the House of Commons.

MPs — and the Lords who debated the matter yesterday — should think carefully before opposing a reform which is so popular and makes such eminent sense. The Sunday trading laws are an anachronism when people increasingly want to be active on a Sunday and would welcome the convenience of being able

to go shopping then. The present Government has sought to combine economic and social freedom with commensurate responsibility: the freedom to spend Sunday as one wishes is entirely a part of that.

Opponents of Sunday trading argue that Sunday should be a day apart and that opening the shops would keep people out of the churches. Whether people go to church is a matter for them. But allowing shops to open is unlikely to turn Sunday into a day like any other. In Scotland, where the relevant section of the Shops Act has never applied, shops open only where there is a demand. There is trading in about 23 per cent of the total and about twice as many people go to church regularly in Scotland as in England and Wales.

Nor is there any shortage of people willing to work. Sunday working is particularly popular with young mothers: they can retain some independence, confident that their children are being looked after by their father or other members of the family.

The Government appears to be leaning towards a compromise advanced by the Shopping Hours Reform Council. This would allow shops to open for, say, six hours on Sunday afternoons but restrict morning opening to certain categories of retailers. For a measure aimed at introducing sense and consistency into Sunday trading it is a curious proposal.

While offering shoppers half a loaf in the shape of afternoon trading, it would retain all the problems associated with statutory itemization of which goods may or may not be sold. An alternative proposal, that only shops below a certain size should be permitted to open, would introduce all sorts of new anomalies. The only really sensible and consistent reform is to abandon the Sunday trading restrictions altogether.

SOFT WINDS IN JAMAICA

Less than a month since President Reagan left the White House, his closest ally in the Caribbean seems about to make a less dignified exit from power. If the opinion polls are right, the voters of Jamaica will exchange their Prime Minister, Mr Edward Seaga, for the man whom he replaced eight years ago. So long as Mr Michael Manley and his People's National Party (PNP) mean what they say, however, the change should be less than dramatic.

Mr Manley's previous period as Prime Minister, between 1972 and 1980, was one of enthusiastic socialism at home and growing alarm in Washington and elsewhere. Policies which included nationalization and friendship with Cuba bred concern among foreign investors and led to a sharp decline in the economy.

But Mr Manley has changed his tune in recent years. By rediscovering a faith in the private sector and assiduously cultivating the commercial world, he has won many businessmen over to his cause. By diligently courting politicians and officials in the United States moreover, he seems to have allayed American fears. Even his stated intention of re-opening diplomatic links with Havana has ruffled few feathers in Washington. The test will be whether Mr Manley's new-found respectability is translated into government.

If he loses the election, Mr Seaga might justifiably feel hard done by. He has brought down inflation, reduced unemployment (still down from 20 per cent) and achieved steady economic growth. He can even point to the country's recovery from the devastation of hurricane Gilbert last September. Not only has

the island repaired much of the \$1 billion worth of damage, but the tourist industry — the biggest single foreign exchange earner — is back on its feet.

The market policies and cuts in public spending which accompanied these successes have, however, led to a deterioration in the social services and to complaints about education and public health. With nearly half of Jamaica's foreign income going to service a debt of more than \$4 billion, not even Mr Manley has been able to promise rapid improvement.

To some extent the voters' preference may be not only instinctive but also personal. Mr Seaga was born and educated in the United States and has the reputation of being less at home with the ordinary islanders than is the more outgoing nationalist, Mr Manley. Although he has wisely avoided making extravagant promises which the next government could not afford, Mr Manley has still come across as a man of the people.

The last election campaign, in 1980, was characterized by sharp ideological clashes between politicians and disguised by unprecedented violence in which an estimated 700 people were killed. This time, the ideology has been muted and the violence, while no less ugly, has been on a far smaller scale. The party leaders might both claim credit for this. Last August they signed a "peace treaty" and their supporters have largely abided by it. Whoever wins today can be grateful that the economic and political expenses he inherits will be so relatively low.

Wide extent of racial inequality

From the Chief Executive of the Commission for Racial Equality
Sir, Mr Honeyford (February 6) says that "the extent to which our ethnic minorities' wellbeing is a function of racial discrimination has never been reliably established". There are many research studies, however, dating from the late 1960s, which show beyond any reasonable doubt that racial discrimination is widespread and deeply entrenched.

Between February, 1984, and March, 1985, for example, the Policy Studies Institute carried out tests in three major cities to measure the extent of racial discrimination, eliminating all possible variables, at the initial stage of recruitment. It found that one employer in three was discriminating against black and Asian applicants. The researchers estimated that nationwide there were tens of thousands of acts of direct racial discrimination in recruitment each year.

Recent investigations by this commission reveal a similar pattern. In 1988, for example, it was found that a medical school actually programmed its computer for sifting applications from potential students so that it discriminated on racial grounds. The programme was intended to replicate the behaviour of the selectors who had done the job previously.

Mr Honeyford is mistaken when he argues that contract compliance cannot be implemented without quota systems. No schemes in this country have involved the use of quotas. It is sufficient that employers should be able to show that, by adopting particular policies and practices, they are using their best endeavours to provide equal opportunity.

It is perverse to argue that contract compliance would introduce racial discrimination when it is prevalent already and when contract compliance is designed to eliminate it. In its recent White Paper, *Employment in the 1990s*, the Government acknowledges that racial discrimination is a barrier "which hinders the best use of the country's human resources". If contract compliance were introduced, the Government would be helping employers to realise the full potential of the labour market.

Yours faithfully,
PETER SANDERS,
Chief Executive,
Commission for Racial Equality,
Elm House,
10-12 Allington Street, SW1,
London W1.
February 7.

Obliged to whom?

From Sir Geoffrey Chandler
Sir, The planned privatisation of water and electricity is understandably arousing anxiety about its possible adverse impact on the consumer. The privatisation of the industrial logic which underlies that of activities where competition can improve efficiency, underpin quality of product or service, and protect consumer interests.

Anxiety must be heightened by the fact that the company law under whose regime these activities, once privatised, will come imposes a legal obligation solely to the shareholder. This archaic legal framework may well encourage the profit-before-service emphasis contained in a speech last week by Mr John Baker, Chief Executive-designate of National Power.

More important, in a world where the concept of obligation to all stakeholders — employees, customers, and community as well as shareholders — is increasingly recognised in precept and practice by enlightened managements, it is a positive hindrance to the spread of such enlightenment.

In 1972 Lord Watkinson headed a CBI study on the responsibilities of the public company as a potential stimulus to radical change in company law. It has set on the shelf ever since. There is urgent need for the debate to be reopened.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY CHANDLER,
46 Hyde Vale, Greenwich, SE10.
January 30.

Sky blue?

From Mr David Leah
Sir, Dish aerials for satellite broadcasting reception are beginning to spring up all over the country. Could the manufacturers not paint these aerials a dull brown or even so that they do not become even more of an eyesore? The military authorities camouflage theirs, and presumably they still work satisfactorily.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID LEAH,
9 Martins Drive,
Wokingham, Berkshire.

Britain and Europe

From the Editor of New European
Sir, Your report (January 26) of the *British Lifestyle Report* as conducted by Sir John Hoskyns, concluding that "British people would not mind being part of a united Europe" provided Britain still made its own decisions. The whole point of the kind of united Europe that Jacques Delors envisaged was that 80 per cent of decisions would be made in Brussels, not Britain, within the next 10 years.

In opposing that prospect the British Government is clearly in line with the wishes of the majority of British people. On the other hand, British people — and this is not new — do want more

Tunnel's impact on European traffic

From Dr Rodney Leach

Sir, Your three feature articles on the significance and implications of the Channel tunnel (January 30-February 1) made good reading.

Providing logistic operational problems are solved and services are managed effectively, the tunnel should both capture a significant volume of existing Anglo-continental traffic passing through south-east England, and generate new tourist traffic between those major English and continental conurbations that will be linked by direct services.

However, amidst the euphoria that the tunnel is actually being built, there are dangers of seeing it as a transport panacea, which it is not.

For example, on grounds of time and cost it is unlikely to have much impact on dispersed traffic flows currently passing by sea between northern England and Scotland and the north Continent, or between southern England and south-western France, Spain and the Mediterranean.

Nor is it likely to make a great impact on the split of through traffic carried respectively by road and rail — witness the progressive decline in market share of railborne traffic between France/Italy, France/Germany, etc., which have had their equivalents of the "Channel tunnel" since railways began.

Sadly advocates of the transatlantic "Liverpool/Continent" landbridge will also be disappointed. Sea transport in large container ships costs more than land transport by road or rail unless the overland journey is much shorter.

Therefore, it makes sense for ships to voyage as close as possible to the "centre of gravity" of origin/destination of the cargo. Unfortunately for Liverpool, geography will dictate the continuing supremacy of Rotterdam and Antwerp.

The real economic beneficiary of the Channel tunnel will be coastal northern France, which as a minimum will gain a share of the revenue from British transit traffic to Belgium/Holland, etc., that currently travels direct. Undoubtedly too, overcrowded south-east England will develop further — if we permit it.

Time will demonstrate the truth of these basic economic facts. However, the nice thing about the present project, unlike its socialist predecessor that some of us opposed successfully through Parliament in 1974/75, is that market forces and private funding should decide the outcome.

But competitors to the tunnel should watch out for a dirigiste response in France if traffic vol-

umes fall below forecast tunnel expectations.

Yours faithfully,
RODNEY LEACH,
Cleve House,
Windermere, Cumbria,
February 2.

From Lady Corisande Bain Smith
Sir, The French are wondering why the British are protesting against the imposition of a high-speed rail link through Kent. They should realise it is the intention to run these lines straight through the rural settlement areas with minimum or no environmental protection, and without there being any legislation, official standard or national guidance applying to railway noise in the UK. Such noise criteria exist on the Continent, and current BR proposals fall far short of their standards.

Nineteenth-century laws are being invoked in deal with a 1990s project, for which the said laws are totally unsuited, and use of a private Bill will evade the protection which should be granted by the EEC Directive 85/337. Your report (January 25) quotes a French spokesman as saying that "of course the SNCF made alternative arrangements in built-up areas". There is no such "of course" in Kent, hence the protests.

Yours sincerely,
C. BAIN SMITH,
Wickens Manor,
Charing,
Nr Ashford, Kent.

From Mr Somerset de Chair
Sir, This Government cannot afford to play fast and loose with its supporters. Your leader on the Kentish interest in the Channel tunnel (February 2) is quite specific:

The people of Kent have a right to feel particularly aggrieved. When the Channel Tunnel Bill was going through Parliament more than two years ago, the then Transport Secretary, Mr Nicholas Ridley, suggested that no changes to the existing rail routes would be required.

It is quite unforgivable for the Government to get the Bill through Parliament with assurances of that kind, and for British Rail (still a nationalised industry) to go forward now with devastating plans to rip up part of the Garden of England in an attempt to force through trains thundering along at 180 mph. This was either calculated deception or it was nothing.

No doubt all sorts of economic arguments can be advanced for a fast connection between London and the Kentish terminal of the Channel tunnel, but that was not what Mr Ridley implied. Yours faithfully,
SOMERSET DE CHAIR,
Bourne Park,
Bishopscleeve,
Nr Canterbury, Kent.

V & A closures

From the President of the Centre International d'Etude des Textiles Anciens
Sir, Scholars everywhere will be dismayed by your report (January 28) of the proposed elimination of specialist departments at the Victoria and Albert Museum.

The existing departments devoted to ceramics, furniture, metalwork, sculpture and textiles have assembled stupendous collections and are pre-eminent centres of international research in their respective fields.

This has come about because the experts in each department have had full responsibility for acquisitions, daily care of the objects, display, research and all other aspects of their special areas of study. The proposal to amalgamate these specialist depart-

ments into two mixed departments and, furthermore, to have off responsibility for research and for daily care of all sorts of objects into two other departments is a recipe for superficiality at all points and for rapid wastage of real expertise.

Of course the museum has problems which must be solved, but not by throwing down the pillars on which the structure stands. It is to be hoped that wise counsels may yet prevail and that the trustees of this great museum will refrain from wilful destruction of some of the most precious assets entrusted to them.

Yours faithfully,
DONALD KING, President,
Centre International d'Etude des Textiles Anciens,
34 rue de la Charité,
69002 Lyons, France.
January 30.

Student loans

From Dr B. J. Boughton
Sir, Your Higher Education Report (January 30) reports some of the possible consequences which expensive student loans will have on the recruitment of medical students. An alternative way to improve the country's investment in training of doctors would be to contract newly qualified practitioners to a period of service to the NHS.

The sense of this has been recognised for many years by Third World countries when they subsidize their own medical profession for training overseas. In Britain the system already operates for students whose university fees are paid by scholarships from our Armed Forces.

A similar system of NHS scholarships would allow the NHS to fill doctors' posts in unpopular parts of the country and in unpopular specialties. It would avoid the expense of employing overseas doctors and the waste of appointing British medical graduates to posts overseas. It would also place an obligation on the female graduates in our medical

schools (currently 50 per cent of the total) who are often lost to the NHS when they marry and have children.

Yours sincerely,
B. J. BOUGHTON,
Queen Elizabeth Hospital,
Department of Haematology,
Queen Elizabeth Medical Centre,
Edgbaston, Birmingham 15.

Symbol of deafness

From the Director General of the Royal National Institute for the Blind

Sir, Mr Philip Stunt (February 4) wonders what convenient device could be used by deaf people to indicate their condition. Mr Stunt and many other of your readers may not be aware that a red and white striped cane is used by individuals whose hearing and sight are both impaired.

Red and white canes are provided free by many local authorities, though some charge for these and for white canes.

Yours faithfully,
IAN BRUCE, Director General,
Royal National Institute for the Blind,
224 Great Portland Street, W1.

new sort of Europe. They do not want a fortress Europe that ends at the frontier of the Community, they do not want the bureaucracy of what Sir John Hoskyns calls "the Brussels culture", but they do want a positive harmonious European Community open to the European countries outside the EEC and to the world.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN COLEMAN, Editor,
New European,
New European Publications Ltd,
14-16 Carroun Road, SW8,
January 26.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (01782) 5046.

A fair trial for the solicitors

From Sir David Napley

Sir, Sir Michael Ogden, QC (February 7) totally misses the point, of course. The question is not whether currently most solicitors/advocates are as good as it is experienced members of the Bar, but whether they would be in the future, were the Bar to stop using every trick and artifice in the book to prevent them acquiring the requisite experience.

The Green Paper rightly advances the proposition that, in the future, with proper common education and the fullest opportunity for both branches to acquire the necessary skill by experience, the public would truly be assured that freedom of choice to which the Bar pays only lip service.

Presumably, Sir Michael Ogden is not suggesting that those undergraduates who, from their present situation of abject ignorance of what practice requires, choose to become solicitors are less mentally equipped than those who, from a far better informed position, choose the Bar. Indeed, the Bar's recent concern has been that the better brains were opting for the solicitors' branch. Nor is he asserting, I assume, that all barristers are superb, or even adequate, advocates.

Why, in the future, should not everyone who chooses to become a lawyer be eligible for every available office and pursuit within the system which their skill and dedication warrant?

Sir Michael Ogden reminds me of those to whom Macaulay addressed his remarks in the House of Commons in 1833 in his celebrated speech on the emancipation of the Jews, when, in terms, he told them it was the height of bigotry to exclude people from pursuits and then seek to justify that exclusion by asserting their lack of experience and ability to perform them.

Against this background, the massing of the serried ranks of the Bar and those who formerly practised at it, in the House of Lords, miserably to defend their nurtured privileges and monopolies against the public interest, does not give promise of an edifying spectacle.

Yours truly,
DAVID NAPLEY,
The Kingsley Napley (Solicitors),
107-115 Long Acre, WC2,
February 7.

From Mr Raymond Blackburn
Sir, Perhaps one of those lawyers who charge enormous fees and oppose Lord Mackay's proposals would inform us whether the money spent on their fees is well spent. Surely they would answer "Yes". They would thereby admit that the rich can buy for themselves a better chance in the lottery of litigation than those of moderate means.

Yet to serve the rule of law should be a vocation, not a business. Instead, as the great Lord Bowen said, "Justice is open to all, like the grill room of the Ritz Hotel".

Yours faithfully,
RAYMOND BLACKBURN,
50 Holford Road,
Chiswick, W4,
January 30.

Red phone boxes

From Mr G. R. Wanstall
Sir, For several years I have been involved with the efforts to save some K6 red traditional telephone boxes. Many felt the agreed national list of 1,000 to be far too small. After recent representations to the Department of the Environment in London I have just been told some good news. I quote from the DoE letter:

We are proposing to increase the guideline figure of 1,000 kiosks, which we originally thought we might protect by listing, to a figure which we think will be high enough to ensure that all of the best examples will be preserved.

This is excellent news and I hope all concerned with our tradition and preserving the best of it will do all they can to ensure early implementation by British Telecom and the DoE.

Yours faithfully,
G. WANSTALL,
11 High Street,
Horne Bay, Kent.

Kissing and telling

From Mr T. W. E. Corbett
Sir, My brother-in-law married a French girl who introduced into an otherwise normal English family the habit of kissing on both cheeks nearly 25 years ago. My mother-in-law now looks pained if kissed only once; radiant if kissed three times.

Lady Elliott (January 31) is right to be concerned at the spread of decadent French habits, but I doubt whether she can do anything to stop them now that we are all bound by the Single European Act.

Yours sincerely,
TIM CORBETT,
The Home Farm, Leebrookwood,
Church Stretton, Shropshire,
January 31.

From Canon H. L. H. Townshend
Sir, May I suggest, in reply to the query at the end of Lady Elliott's letter as to where it will all end, that we have already gone one stage further, or those who practise it have, when the kisses are now accompanied by a sort of "yummy" noise each time.

Yours truly,
H. L. H. TOWNSHEND,
46 The Close,
Norwich, Norfolk,
January 31.

THE ARTS

TELEVISION

Apeing reality

Monkey business was given a human face last night on television. QED (BBC 1) went to the United States to interview Dr Robert White, the surgeon who got almost as bad a press as Dr Frankenstein when he transplanted a monkey's head on to another's body. White turned out to be a devout, traditional Roman Catholic who advises the Vatican about brain death and the Soviet Union about keeping it ticking.

He certainly practises what he preaches when it comes to his strong belief in human life: he has fathered 10 children and is quite prepared to extend the life of hopeless cases, such as babies with no brain. Monkeys with brains may be less lucky.

Though John DeLoe certainly made a babeon of the British Government, the FBI a howler of DeLoe and a jury a chip of its celebrated video-recorded narcotic dealing case against him, the monkeys in *Monkeys* (BBC 2), a dramatization of the set-up, by the Irish poet Paul Muldoon, referred in fact to drugs. Basing his drama on the bugged conversations, Muldoon intriguingly accentuated the verbal intricacies and rhythms of bluffing a bluffer and stinging a stinger, rather than clear explanation of the action — DeLoe's dealings with the IRA were almost casually thrown into the conversation.

The director Danny Boyle made much use of the dominant visual leitmotiv of the saga, not the gulling car doors but the cowering as pure as the driven (or dealt) snow, represented by a bonfire wick on Manning Redwood's head.

Flying Squad (ITV), the latest police fly-on-the-wall documentary, proved yet again that, when it comes to simian imitation, your average British bank robber is no gorilla — one was aesthetically gaudy, the other a baby-faced tabby. Though it contained some fascinating footage, the programme was too short — the quick cutting, impressively sonorous tones of the narrator, and the direct interviews with this new breed of camera-confidence policeman, prevented that slow build-up of atmosphere which in similar documentaries has passed so well for reality.

Such programmes invite the question: "What would have been different if the cameras had not been there?" The *Flying Squad* does not tell prospective victims of tip-offs in case they change their performances. DeLoe's "re-constructed" speech is in a way more real because he did not know he was recorded.

Andrew Hislop

Geoff Brown finds a folk tale of the 1920s more compelling than films with a contemporary setting

Red in tooth and claw

No prizes for guessing the dominant colour in *Red Sorghum*. There is red everywhere in this powerful Chinese film: red clothing, red blood, pots of red wine distilled from the fields of red sorghum waving in the wind. The director's gift for propelling his story through startling images should come as no surprise: Zhang Yimou worked as cameraman on *Yellow Earth* and *The Big Parade*, two of the most acclaimed recent Chinese films. *Red Sorghum*, his directing debut, snatched the main prize, the Golden Bear, at last year's Berlin Film Festival.

The story is the stuff of folk legend. In the late 1920s, a young bride is saved from rape en route to her marriage to a leprosy disfigure owner. The husband disappears, she takes charge of the business, and the peasant who saved her from attack becomes her new partner. In a fit of bile he urinates over a wine consignment, which vastly improves its taste. Time passes. The Japanese invade and disrupt the boisterous idyll, forcing workers to watch one of their number skinned alive. (Luckily for us, the flying occurs off-screen.) Our plucky heroine joins the locals in organizing reprisals.

Zhang Yimou and his cameraman know exactly how to marry figures and landscapes for dramatic effect. Throughout, the local culture is boldly etched. One bizarre scene documents the bride's traditional bumpy sedan carriage ride to her groom (with the carriers singing about head lice, if you please). Another explores the gloomy carnage of a butcher's shop — headquarters of the local bandit. This is film-making of raw power and beauty; even if red is not your favourite colour, you should not miss *Red Sorghum*.

Sometimes it seems Hollywood has forgotten that adult audiences ever existed. Yet there are people over 25 who still venture into cinemas, and these are the targeted market for *The Good Mother*. People, in fact, like Diane Keaton's heroine, Anna Dunlap — a shy Massachusetts piano teacher with a young daughter, recently divorced from an unexciting marriage, now getting her second wind, thanks to a passionate affair with a bohemian sculptor.

Anna's Sixties upbringing taught her to loosen old taboos. But when she puts her beliefs into practice in the late 80s, society slaps her wrists: after hearing of the couple's free and easy ways, Anna's ex-husband sues for custody of their daughter. It all ends in court, and in tears.

This is Best Actress Oscar territory, of course. At times Keaton tries far too hard, toppling into the garbled rage that made *Shoot the Moon* such a trial. But the central relationship with her fiery new flame (charismatically played by Liam Neeson) is sensitively charted.

The director is Leonard Nimoy, striding up-market after the brash force of *Three Men and a Cradle*. His four-square style does nothing for the script's bumps and crevices, but at least the actors have room to breathe. Audiences well past 25 should take extra pleasure from seeing Teresa Wright and Ralph Bellamy (now a hale and hearty 84) as the heroine's grandparents.

Chinese culture features again in *Soursweet*, adapted by director Mike Newell and writer Ian McEwan, from Timothy Min's novel about an immigrant family's mixed fortunes in London and the long shadows of the Chinese underworld. Technically, this is a fine piece of work. The scene-setting is bold and flamboyant, from the fireworks-strewn Hong Kong wedding to the bustling London restaurant where the milkop husband (Danny Dyer) works as a waiter, and the dismal wasteland where the family hide when the Chinatown gang turn on the heat.

Once the scenes are set, however, trouble starts. The husband's passivity stretches credulity; the gang warfare is difficult to follow; and the establishment of a Chinese take-away in a desolate area with no discernible housing injects an unhelpful element of whimsy. For all the moments of family anguish and insights into the perils of cultural absorption, the film remains obstinately unbelievable.

Want to see a Japanese fighting fish biting off part of Leslie Nielsen's nose? Then make fast tracks for *The Naked Gun* — the latest knockabout comedy from spoof specialists Jerry Zucker, Jim Abrahams and David Zucker (ZAZ for short), best-known for ridiculing the *Airport* movies in *Airplane!* The target now is cop thrillers. Nielsen plays an accident-prone Los Angeles lieutenant out to foil a terrorist attack on the Queen.

ZAZ derived the material from their own *Police Squad!*, a short-lived TV series from 1982; and the scattershot humour would definitely play better in half-hour chunks, minus narrative padding. But there is still much raucous amusement on offer, and Nielsen has a fine time extracting comedy from his famously stiff acting style.

Slipstream is a British-made fantasy set in the years after the "Convergence" — a momentous natural revolution which reduced the world to rocks and roaring winds. Two hardened law officers fly through this

CINEMA

Red Sorghum (15)
Screen on the Hill

The Good Mother (15)
Odeon Haymarket

Soursweet (15)
Curzon West End

The Naked Gun (15)
Empire

Slipstream (PG)
Odeon Leicester Square

The Dead Can't Lie (15)
Cannon Haymarket

Short Circuit 2 (PG)
Cannon Haymarket

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Plucky heroine: Gong Li plays the bride-turned-brewer in Zhang Yimou's *Red Sorghum*

bleak landscape (thank you, the Yorkshire Dales and Turkey) tracking a mysterious kidnapper.

Elmer Bernstein's music thunders away as though this was some *Star Wars* spectacular; the film, indeed, is the brainchild of *Star Wars* producer Gary Kurtz, and uses one of its stars, Mark Hamill, alongside Bob Peck and Eleanor David. But there the comparison ends: the plot is muddled, and the visual effects lack all magic. There should be little call for *The Slipstream Strikes Back*.

Screenwriter Lloyd Fonvielle makes a modest directorial bow in *The Dead Can't* Lie, a shoestring thriller aimed in America at cable television. Tommy Lee Jones is the down-at-heel private eye hired by a wealthy financier to prevent harassment from the ghost of his greedy wife (Virginia Madsen). The visual texture is on the thin side, but Fonvielle has a nice line in Forties-style wisecracks, and the spooky story lingers in the mind.

Nothing much lingers in *Short Circuit 2*. The parent film was a sizeable hit in 1986; the sequel features the same talking robot, at large among big city hustlers and crooks. This time round, the charm and good jokes are in painfully short supply.

OPERA

More muddled than magical

Die Zauberflöte
Royal College of Music

The last thing this *Flute* can claim to be is magic. David Edwards, directing, has provided the Royal College with a *Zauberflöte* which relies exhaustively, and exhaustively, on the visual impediments of the Enlightenment; yet it is a production in which the sleep of reason is all too deep.

A single, stark neo-classical set (a Sir John Soane exterior for Act I, the inside of something like the Greenwich observatory for Act II) is the backdrop for two major miscalculations in staging. There is a constant flurry of workmen, fit every spare moment including the overture, apparently preparing for an archaeological excavation over the scene. They are hyperactive, so every significant entrance and exit is blunted into near-insignificance.

It is a wonder that Tamino's cries for help are not totally ignored when the entire beast incident is static compared with the bustle that has gone before. Moreover, the beast himself is a stately Egyptian snake-god, who appears later to take Papageno off just before the Isis and Osiris chorus.

The fact that Minostratos's dastardly crew are quite obviously exactly the same onlooking trusty 18th-century townsfolk as Sarastro's hand, is obviously part of the deeper significance of this director's Manichaean thesis.

Whatever that thesis is, it does not work in either dramatic or musical terms and this, for a cast of aspiring young professionals, is a heavy responsibility to abdicate. Papageno (Edward Hanton) yawns his way in and sulks his way through the show like a morose Leporello; the Queen of Night (Julian Arthur) has a good line in a florid and a fair command of her testing coloratura, but is given little chance for true enchantment.

Under the tutelage of Mao Mao's Sam's Sarastro (his voice does not, as yet, quite live up to his name), Tamino and Pamina surface through their trials, not the least of which was David Maxwell Anderson's throat infection. Behind it, though, is a robust and authoritative tenor as well as a highly intelligent musician, encouraged by James Lockhart's sturdy support from the pit, his presence made the evening almost worthwhile.

Hilary Finch

Bitter-sweet sensuality

Teresa
Petit Montparnasse

An exhilarating Campari and champagne cocktail, with the kick of a pair of satin mules, this new Franco-Italian production of Natalia Ginzburg's crow-black comedy, *Teresa*, bodes well for 1992. Giorgio Ferrara directs his Italian compatriot Adriana Asti in the title role, and a commendable French supporting cast. It is European cultural cross-fertilization at its best.

Michel Arnaud's French adaptation reconstructs the original dialogue with such linguistic agility it almost sounds like Italian — a trick of the ear aided by Asti's delicious accent. With an economy of effects, Marin Garbuglia's design convincingly re-creates the bourgeois sleaze of Rome, within the intimate confines of the Petit Montparnasse.

Elena, a primly pretty young student, answers the small ad of

THEATRE

the once voluptuous, now blousy, Teresa, who offers a room in exchange for company. Teresa unburdens her bitter-sweet past (abandoned child to failed cinema starlet) to the receptive Elena. It becomes clear that Teresa is pathetically still in love with Lorenzo, her long-estranged husband. The boyish, handsomely seductive Lorenzo's reappearance leads towards a vicarious triangle, finally shattered by a fatal pistol shot.

A solidly constructed play, it has plenty of astute observation in the verbal cladding, and the biting humour — wittily brought out by Ferrara's nimble direction — is shot through with withering one-liners. Premiered in London in 1968, directed by Laurence Olivier with Joan Plowright as Teresa, it was not performed in Italy until 1969, with Asti as Teresa and Luchino Visconti directing.

Twenty years on, in a career in which she became Strindberg and Visconti's favourite leading lady, Asti returns to the role with a sensual maturity that polishes the character's excessive theatricality till it dazzles with excellence. *Teresa* is a dramatic minefield. A step too much towards the burlesque, the gratuitous leg-show and the whole play changes tone, loses its subtlety and its cerebral searing power. Asti does not put a foot wrong.

But, while she deservedly holds the audience under her spell, with the shrug of a casually bared shoulder, the curl of a phosno-lined lip, she wisely never eclipses the other excellent characterizations. Jeanne Marie's apple-cheeked innocent victim Elena, Didier Flamand's careless heart-stealer Lorenzo and Jacques Pozzallo's delivery boy are the canvas upon which Teresa paints her life, past and present, with devastating results.

Diane Hill

TOMORROW

Karen Donovan:
John Percival
on a new ballet star

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Dazzling: Adriana Asti in the title role of Natalia Ginzburg's *Teresa*

Premature outing is painful

Island Life
Drill Hall

Jenny McLeod is a youngish writer whose first play, *Cricket At Camp David*, won a competition at Nottingham Playhouse. Monstrous Regiment commissioned this new play and does the author no service in putting it on the stage instead of telling her to go away and tighten its slow dialogue, deepen its content, build to her climaxes, sort out the exits and think up an ending. They might consider another director.

Her play takes a glimpse at the sad detentions of age, by focusing jerkily on three elderly residents of an old people's home left to their own devices over a bank holiday weekend. Sophia is cantankerous and confined to a wheelchair; Vera boasts of her ways with men; Emmy, Jamaica-born, is merrily sweet-natured.

Emmy also likes to think her daughter is about to drop in for tea. A younger West Indian, brought in to the story by some insidiously feeble plotting, is amazed to learn that this daughter's visit is make-believe. "I don't understand," she gasps, or would gasp if the actress

Too calculated

Andromaque
T.N.P. Villeurbanne
(Lyons suburb) — 1

The tragedy of Roger Planchon's polished production of *Andromaque* by Jean Racine is that it lacks tragedy. Racine's dazzling dialogue vibrates the ear drums with poetic red-blooded verve, telling of 17th-century French royal carnal cravings and polluted politics — thinly concealed within the literary contours of Greek mythology. Planchon's immaculate direction, while taking its lead from the aversion of Racine's day to theatrical excess, frustratingly fails to make the gutsy scenario reverberate. In the light of the bicentenary of the Revolution, Planchon's interpretation also plays up the corruptive influence of royalist power games.

Framed within Ezio Frigerio's overpowering, grey Gothic acropolis design, the characters act out their respective *Anguis* with dispassionate perfection. This

constrained competence makes it nigh impossible for an audience to come to emotional grips with *Andromaque*'s dilemma, when Pyrrhus trades marriage against the life of her infant son, or with Hermione's demented rage, which drives her to wreak revenge on Pyrrhus via the sword of her erstwhile lover Oreste, only to rebuff the latter cruelly when he carries out the deadly deed.

Richard Berry's Oreste breaks, alone, through Planchon's clean, clipped, passionless precision, to show the contorted features and physical agony of a man whose love has ripped reason from his soul. Berry imbues the role with a 20th-century nervousness, that savagely enhances the work's classical literary refinement. His lusty performance nevertheless disturbs the production's equilibrium, particularly in opposition to Christine Boisson's flimsy *Andromaque*, André Marcon's stilled Pyrrhus and Mimi-Mimi's flighty Hermione.

Physically, Planchon's casting does, however, clearly accentuate Racine's implied intention to portray *Andromaque* and Hermione as creatures of no real substance, manipulated and motivated from outside rather than from within. The rose-petal fragility of Mimi-Mimi adds an intriguing new dimension to Hermione's foot-stamping contrariness.

Honing the action down to a finely drawn, minimalist geometry nevertheless has the effect of placing the literary genius of Racine on the equivalent of a silver platter. Unlike Planchon's recent productions of Molière's *L'Avare* and George Dandin, whose bouncy re-interpretation and contentious dithering with the dialogue ruffled traditionalists but delighted the populace, here, the text is as Racine wrote it and its presentation eminently respectful and decidedly scholarly.

Planchon, who inherited the mantle of the National Populaire from Jean Vilar, says: "I admire Racine but my heart is on the side of Molière." The sentiment is borne out in this exemplary, but cold-blooded *Andromaque*.

The limited season at Villeurbanne has been extended, while the monumental proportions of the set are hampering the search for a theatre in Paris able to house the production.

Jeremy Kingston

D.H.

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BOOKS

Peter Ackroyd reviews a notion that Rudyard was a genius because he never ceased from Kipling

RUDYARD KIPLING
By Martin Seymour-Smith
Macdonald/Queen Anne, £16.95

It is the contention of this contentious but entertaining book that Rudyard Kipling, poet of Empire and story-teller of genius, was a repressed homosexual whose most important work comes out of his struggles with that suppressed or unacknowledged orientation. We all know about his dark side — in fact it is one of the most interesting things about him — but Martin Seymour-Smith now gives it a name. It was this homosexuality that encouraged both his intimacy with chaos and his hysterical attachment to the "Law". It was responsible both for his emotional imbalance and his hysterical prejudices; to put it crudely, he was in love with the "British Empire" because he fancied British soldiers.

There are many objections to this, principal among them being the fact there is no real evidence for it — no secret code in his diaries, no lavatory exploits, no old queen's reminiscences of "dear Ruddy". It remains pure surmise, and in fact Martin Seymour-Smith can only support his theory by the ingenious but forced linkage of circumstantial evidence (already, of course, it is beginning to sound like some kind of crime). But even if we accept Martin Seymour-Smith's word for it, surely it is still wrong to conclude that repression in itself is necessarily harmful. Yet here it becomes the sole proper explanation for his "inhuman statements" and his "cruelty". Indirectly, and no doubt unconsciously, Mr Seymour-Smith is in fact reviving all the old prejudices against homosexuals under a different banner — now it is repressed homosexuals who are being given a bad name. But sexual repression, far from being one of the most significant of Kipling's problems, might in fact have been the solution. If he had not been repressed he might not have become a great writer.

But all this of course is to beg the question — the question itself being the extent to which any kind of sexuality is the principle motor of human conduct and human expression. Certainly Kipling cannot have been a repressed heterosexual, since he was happily married; but the serious point is that his sexual orientation may be of no real importance. Yet in order to pursue certainty, where no certainty exists, and to find evidence where none can be found, Mr Seymour-Smith takes no account of such matters, and in the process, becomes too resolutely single-minded. His is an intriguing story, but it may have no real connection with Kipling's life.

Of course not all of the book suffers from this over-determination. Martin Seymour-Smith is an intelligent writer who approaches the usual myths about Kipling with a scepticism not generally to be found in biographers. The basic facts remain the same as in any of the shilling life — the Anglo-Indian infancy, the abandonment in a Southsea lodging house, the journalism, the return to Britain, and the rapid achievement of that great fame that was never entirely to leave him. Then there is the story of the reclusive who lost his son in the war, the secretive man who was guarded by his wife. In this sense *Rudyard Kipling* offers a convincing portrait of a well-protected, smart, sarcastic, and somewhat bitter man who was able to project an image of himself as an "outcast" and "rebel" even as he became a guardian of the imperial tradition.



More to art than sex

GLYNIS BOYD HART

throughout this long and detailed biography with a series of paradoxes — Kipling was both an authoritarian and a subversive, an upholder of the imperial creed while half in love with the darkness which that creed attempted to suppress, both gaoler and prisoner, a man who lacked "kindness of heart" but who turned himself into a "universal uncle", a genius whose actual philosophy was "cruel, unworthy, and impractical", an egocentric with a powerfully sympathetic imagination. Given this list of opposites being yoked violently together, it is not also possible that he was both homosexual and heterosexual — and that this quite common ambivalence is one of the least interesting things about a writer who made expert use of much greater internal conflicts?

That is why Seymour-Smith is more interesting, for example, on the connection between Kipling and the gothic tradition. He was a pessimist and an authoritarian who believed in what might be called the catastrophic theory of humankind.

There seems little doubt, after all, that "his sense of deep personal unworthiness" led him to grant genius only to "a daemon outside himself" — in other words, he was so fearful of modesty that he refused to accept responsibility for his own great gifts. That is why in Kipling's writing the world becomes some open wound, a place of horror and hardship where it is best not to know the true purpose of God or the awful potentialities of the human heart — better to mark a straight path instead, to obey the Law and do one's duty. And yet all the time Kipling's genius is working beneath the discernible surface, subverting his political clichés, contradicting his certainties, undermining his judgement. He is preoccupied with the tears of things, but his sensibility is not expressed in Virgilian cadence but in that thoroughly robust and economical prose which is only occasionally too laconic and too demotic for its own good.

Most of this biography, then, is as intelligent as it is well-researched. And so it is even more of a pity that Mr Seymour-Smith should unbalance a fine work by acting as a kind of recruiting sergeant in sexual matters, dragging Kipling off in a direction that he might neither have recognized nor appreciated. With a genius such as his, in any case, the competing claims of homosexuality or heterosexuality are really of no lasting significance.

Baroque around clock

Stuart Evans

DICTIONARY OF THE KHAZARS

By Milorad Pavić
Hamish Hamilton, £11.95

somewhere in the Northern Balkans which they shared uneasily, sometimes subversively, with Greeks, Jews, and Arabs. They were ruled by a kaghan who took precedence over a warrior king. One of these kaghans, to determine what should be the Khazar religion, summoned a Christian who became Saint Cyril, an Islamic scholar, Farabi Ibn Kora, and a Jewish rabbi, Isaac Sangari, to engage in the Khazar Polemic in order to decide.

Dreams are perhaps the most

engaged in researching the history of the Khazars, at the battle of Kladovo between the Serbs and the Turks in 1689. Each of them comes to a savage end, and all the evidence they have separately collected is lost.

Three 20th-century scholars, Dr Suk, Dr Abu Kabir Muawia, and Dr Dorothea Schultz, representing the same three religions, have been working on further research centred upon the two editions of the dictionary now lost which were not destroyed by the In-

quisition. They were published by Daubannus, a Polish printer, in the late 17th century, and one was written in poisoned ink. The three came together in 1982 with fateful consequences.

The three versions — Christian, Islamic, and Judaic — of the reconstructed dictionary are suffused with metaphysics and theology. Most insistent is the struggle between God and the Devil (in male and female guises). The 15 "crucial" lines occur on pages 293-4, but the key to the author's intention seems to be in the first of two appendices. It is a work of immense ambition, bewildering but successful. And might even be a huge scholarly literary joke.

NEW HARDBACKS

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books:

The Correspondence of Charles Darwin, vol. 4, 1847-50, edited by F. Burkhardt & S. Smith (Cambridge, £32.50) Scientific milestones: he wrote profuse letters because of bad health and his far-flung investigations. *Deceptive Distinctions: Sex, gender, and the social order*, by Cynthia Fuchs Epstein (Yale, £20) Feminist sociologist on the sexual difference. *Enter the Dragon, China at war in Korea*, by Russell Spurr (Siddhick & Jackson, £15) How China was drawn in, from G.I. eye to big perspective. *Paradise Found and Lost*, by O. H. K. Spate (Routledge, £40) Vol 3 of Pacific since Magellan, discoverers and reactions from 1764-1846. *Prisoner of Love*, by Jean Genet, translated by Barbara Bray (Picador, £12.95) The outlaw of French literature on life, travels, rebellion. *The Secret War Against Hitler*, by William Casey (Simon & Schuster, £12.95) Discreet memoirs of the founder of Office of Strategic Services. *Tatlin*, edited by Larissa Alekseyevna Zhodova (Thames & Hudson, £40) Vladimir Tatlin (1885-1930) Enigmatic Soviet architect-dreamer and artist. *Under the Heel of Mary*, by Nicholas Perry & Lorato Echeverria (Routledge, £30) Genesis and cult history of Marianism down the centuries.

Dictionary of the Khazars occurs in male and female editions which are identical save for 15 lines that are described as crucial. This "lexicon novel" is translated from the Serbo-Croatian, and Milorad Pavić is an academic who specializes in Serbian baroque literature. One of the meanings of "baroque" is grotesque or odd. The book is certainly that and more: it is phantasmagoric, often surreal. The Dictionary is packed with action, often very violent, metaphysical speculation, aphorisms, and humour which is not always cruel.

The Khazars are a lost nation whose language has also disappeared. They inhabited territory

Old tank warfare

Behind Baroness Blackstone's beautiful face lies a brilliant brain, though not without bigotry on such subjects as state socialism and Mrs Thatcher. Her collaborator, William Plowden, is pretty bright too. Both served their time on the Central Policy Review staff (the "Think Tank") and they have written a surprisingly convincing, as well as informative study of the work of that amazing apparatus, which intruded in government affairs between early 1971, when it was set up by Mr Heath, and 1983 when it was abolished by Mrs Thatcher.

Its first head was the idiosyncratic Lord Rothschild, whose quirky ways, compendious knowledge, endless curiosity, and compelling charm, through which an occasional tetchiness peeps out, have endeared him to almost all who have known him. He was the right person to initiate inquiries into whether Ministers and Civil Servants understood the implications of what they were talking about, and to suggest to them what they ought to be talking (and thinking) about with an eye to the future, and not just for the moment. The Think Tank looked like a useful political tool, particularly for a Prime Minister who might feed the need of an intimate intelligence staff against whom he could bang ideas and have them banged back.

The Think Tank's life was often stormy, and often useful. It is difficult to apply chilling common sense without annoying someone, and some of its reports bulged with common sense, while others were possibly marred in the eyes of the victims by a belief that the blighters at the Think Tank were a gang of impertinent young intellectuals with an average age of 35. Their number was limited to 20, mainly because Lord Rothschild thought more could not be conveniently assembled around the table provided in his office — an excellent way of deciding how



The dark-eyed evil genius

Woodrow Wyatt

INSIDE THE THINK TANK
Advising the Cabinet
1971-1983
By Tessa Blackstone & William Plowden
Heinemann, £14.95

many thrusting, probing minds could be controlled fruitfully.

One report was triumphantly successful. It was into the motor industry which, in the world shortages after 1945, looked booked for everlasting success, but which mysteriously dribbled away. To the horror of the unions and of management the Think Tank expressed the reasons. It was not lack of capital or of modern technology or poor production design. Ford were producing identical Escorts with identical equipment at Dagenham and Cologne, but the productivity in Cologne was far higher. "On average, the man-hours required in Britain to assemble the same, or a similar, car are almost double those required on the Continent. The implications for the British car industry are extremely serious."

Indeed — but the Think Tank

warnings, which applied not merely to the car but to the whole of British industry, went unheeded. The report on overseas representation really got the goat of those at the top. They were livid at being investigated by a team containing two inquisitive young ladies, one of whom was Tessa Blackstone herself, then aged 34 and known in the Foreign Office as "the dark-eyed evil genius". Actually, they were dead right about over-lavish staffs enjoying lavish entertaining and doing little of value in promoting British trade or anything else. Ruefully the authors record that despite the obloquy from on high, many of the report's sensible recommendations were implemented later.

The radical Think Tank was a success when it worked for Heath and for Labour governments which were not radical, but buried in the past, unable to reach beyond the conventional, calamitous post-war consensus when devising policies on what to do, if anything, about anything. Mrs Thatcher has a radical idea a minute. She does not need any help from a Think Tank to dream them up, particularly as too many of its members were still susceptible to outdated Marxist myths. She is quite able by herself to get expert advice that meshes with her line of thinking. So the Think Tank had to go, but we should give it a nice thank you for enlivening the body politic.

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Sexchanging stereotypes

FICTION

John Nicholson

THE HOUSEHUSBAND

By Christine Park

Harcourt, £10.95

THE FALL OF MAN

By Frances Thomas

Gollancz, £12.95

A contemporary couple, Carole and Tony Davis. She, rights manager at a major publishing house, jogs with the boys at lunchtime and sinks a couple of jars after work before hot-footing it back to Kenish Town, where her dinner is just starting to dry up in the oven. For he is a Househusband.

It all began as an experiment — and a very convenient arrangement it was, when Tony lost his job at just the moment Carole's career started to take off. But it was never intended to be more than a stopgap, to tide them over until it became clear what a kindly fate might have in store for a man of Tony's talents.

Unfortunately, this turned out to be not much. In fact, nothing at all. So at the beginning of Christine Park's second novel, Tony has been unemployed for seven years. Unemployed, but not unoccupied, since it seems only sensible that he, as non-earning partner, should assume primary responsibility for bringing up the children. But his dreams are of risk-capital ventures rather than the old Utopian ideals, as he keeps young Timothy and Ellen amused on Hampstead Heath. Which is where they meet Alex.

Young, pretty, bored with her A-Levels, and smothered by her parents' ineffable tolerance, Alex is ripe for adventure. The children are enchanted by her, but Tony is too honourable to allow his growing frustration with Carole to lead him into anything that might jeopardize his children's relationship with their new friend. Instead he offers to help Alex with her course-work — whereupon Carole grabs hold of the wrong end of the stick and beats him with it. Such are the rewards of virtue.

Less ambitious than her first novel, *Joining the Green-Ups*, *The Househusband* nevertheless confirms Christine Park's reputation as a major literary talent. She captures the tackiness of publishing, and writes sharply though not unsympathetically about middle-class North London. Her characters are familiar but fresh, the things they say entirely convincing — particularly when they're young. They develop, too. Indeed it is this that gives the book its impetus.

Frances Thomas got in amongst the prizes first time out. *Seeing Things* not only won the 1987 Welsh Arts Council Fiction Prize, but came within a whisker of taking the Whitbread First Novel

section as well. So great things were expected of her second book. Sad to report, *The Fall of Man* is a bit of a damp squib.

The ground it covers — adultery in a quasi-religious community in Wales — looks promising. Risky though, having previously been forked over by such formidable operators as Mesdames Murdoch and Lively. The novel opens with the arrival at Disserth House of Daniel Green. After a blameless childhood, Daniel has just carried out his first act of rebellion against his professional progenitors, by walking out of finals. Dripping behind the ears, Daniel takes people at face value. Hunter, the community's self-appointed leader, who prescribes a course in Celtic mysticism and healthy country walks to put the lad back on the rails.

Hunter himself could use a little sorting out. So could his wife Celia, who has taken to canoodling in caves with the vicar's son, to say nothing of his daughter Dorothy, who would happily canoodle anywhere with anyone, but can find no takers. Joseph Agbodeka, the community's only other paying patient, turns her down politely; Kevin, the local farmer's lad, with less finesse, Daniel himself might have stepped into the breach, had he not already been snapped up by Anita the Evangelist. And so on, and so on. Unfortunately, every character in *The Fall of Man* is a caricature, while Miss Thomas is palpably unable to decide whether she is writing farce or light comedy.

There's nothing light about Helen Hodgman's latest offering. Set in Battersea (no, not the fashionable bit), *Broken Words* (*Virago*, £11.95) is a disjointed account of the doings of a pair of out-of-work, Australian lesbians and their hangers-on, who include a murderously lecherous professor and a cannibal. Astounding to report, it is well written and funny.

IN THE T L S THIS WEEK

OLIVER NORTH AND DONALD REGAN

THE THIRD PROGRAMME AND LITERATURE — ANTHONY THWAITE REMEMBERS LOST GLORIES

EUROPEAN THEMES:

THE MAKING OF EASTERN EUROPE
THE TORY PARTY AND THE EEC: CURRENT ARGUMENTS AND THEIR BACKGROUND
GEORGE STEINER ON PAUL CELAN

THEATRE: 'THE VORTEX', 'THE ALCHEMIST'

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INFORMATION SERVICE

This selective guide to entertainment and events throughout Britain appears from Monday to Friday, followed in the Review section on Saturday by a preview of the week ahead. Items should be sent to The Times Information Service, PO Box 7, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9XN

BOOKING KEY
★ Seats available
★ Returns only
(D) Access for disabled

THEATRE
LONDON

★ **ARTIST DESCENDING A STAIRCASE**: Def. often touching stage of Stoppard's radio play transferred from the King's Head, Duke of York's Theatre, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (01-836 5122). Tube: Leicester Sq. Mon-Thurs 8.30pm, Fri and Sat 8.30-10pm. Mats Fri and Sat 6-7.30pm. £5-13.50.

★ **BRIGADOON**: OK revival of Lerner and Loewe's misty Scottish musical. Victoria Palace, Victoria St SW1 (01-834 1317). Tube: Victoria. Mon-Sat 7.30-10pm. Mats Thurs, Sat 2.30-5pm. £3-22. Thurs mat, all seats half-price.

★ **THE FATHER**: Alan Armstrong in John Osborne's version of Strindberg's alarming drama of mental tragedy. National Theatre (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 (01-928 2252). Tube: Waterloo. Hammersmith. Tonight 7.30pm. In repertory. £5.50-£7.50.

★ **HEDDA GABLER**: Juliet Stevenson as Ibsen's angry young lady in new production by Howard Davies. National Theatre (Olivier), South Bank, SE1 (01-928 2252). Tube: Waterloo. Tonight 7.15pm. £5.50-£14.

★ **HENGEFORD**: Ian McKellen and Jane Asher in excellent Ayckbourn set in a future London serviced by willing robots. Vaudeville Theatre, Strand, WC2 (01-836 9588). Tube: Charing Cross. 7 Mon-Fri 7.30-9.50pm, Sat 8.30-10.50pm. Mats Wed 2.30-4.50pm and Sat 1.5-7.20pm. £7.50-£15.

★ **MEASURE FOR MEASURE**: Roger Allam first-rate in Nicholas Hyman's production. Barbican Theatre, Barbican Centre, EC2 (01-438 8891). Tube: Barbican/Goodge St. Fri and Sat 7.30-10.15pm. £5-£15.

★ **THE SECRET RAPTURE**: New David Hare play in which Penelope Walton and Jill Baker are two sisters adapting to their father's death. National Theatre (Olivier), South Bank, SE1 (01-928 2252). Tube: Waterloo. Tonight 7.45pm, £3.50-£14.

★ **THE SNEEZE**: Marvellously funny and varied Chakoff/Francis piece, eight in all. Town Hall, Tottenham Court Road, W1 (01-438 8891). Tube: Tottenham Court Road. Chakoff/Francis. Mon-Fri 7.30pm, Sat 5pm and 8.30pm; mat Wed 3pm. £2-£15.

★ **TEACHERS**: John Gower's end-of-term play with a godly father and his teachers. Arts Theatre, Great Newport Street, WC2 (01-438 3334). Tube: Leicester Square. Mon-Thurs 8.10pm, Fri and Sat 8.10pm. Early performances on Fri and Sat 5.30-8.30pm. £5.50-£11.50.

BEST SELLING BOOKS

For the week ending February 4

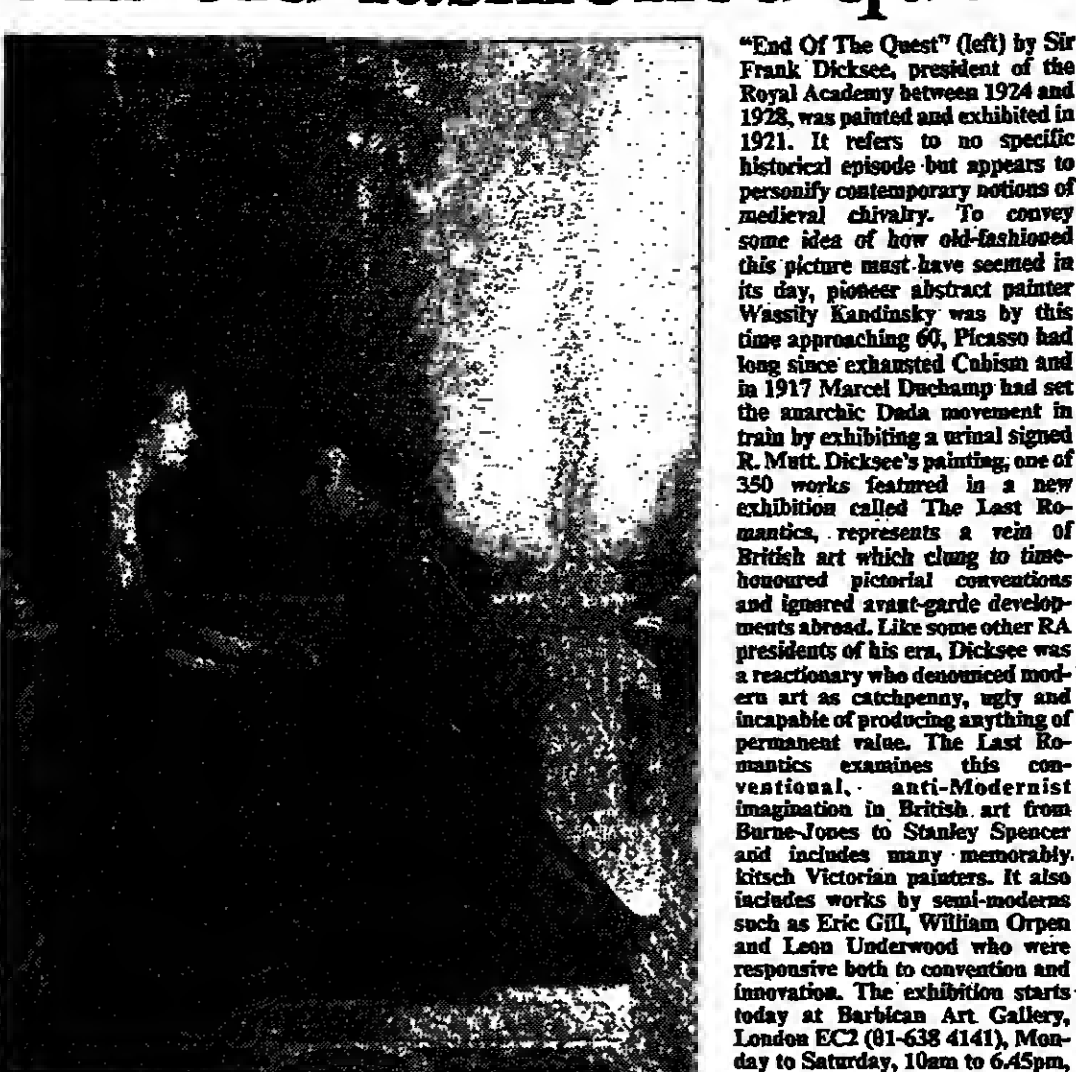
FICTION	
1 <i>Call of the Wild</i> , Margaret Atwood	Bloomsbury £12.95
2 <i>The Secret Garden</i> , Frances Hodgson Burnett	Viking £12.95
3 <i>A Little Stranger</i> , Sarah Waters	Bloomsbury £12.95
4 <i>Great Delirium</i> , Elizabeth George	Bantam £9.95
5 <i>The Greek Key</i> , Colin Forbes	Corgi £11.95

NON-FICTION	
1 <i>On My Way To The Club</i> , Ludovic Kennedy	Corgi £15.00
2 <i>Eric Gill</i> , Fiona MacCarthy	Faber £14.95
3 <i>The Shant's Last Ride</i> , William Shawcross	Corgi £15.95
4 <i>A Brief History of Time</i> , Stephen Hawking	Bantam £14.95
5 <i>Collected Poems</i> , Philip Larkin	Faber £16.95

PAPERBACKS	
1 <i>Holidays in Hell</i> , P. J. O'Rourke	Picador £3.95
2 <i>The Songbirds</i> , Bruce Chatwin	Penguin £3.95
3 <i>Summer's Lease</i> , John Mortimer	Penguin £3.50
4 <i>The Past Is Myself</i> , Christobel Blegenberg	Corgi £3.95
5 <i>Sucking Sherbert Lemons</i> , Michael Carson	Black Swan £3.99
6 <i>Hot Money</i> , Dick Francis	Pan £3.50
7 <i>Gonillas In The Mist</i> , Dian Fossey	Penguin £4.99
8 <i>Look To The Lady</i> , Margery Allingham	Penguin £2.99
9 <i>Behind The Wall</i> , Colin Thubron	Penguin £4.99
10 <i>Not That Sort Of Girl</i> , Mary Wesley	Black Swan £3.95

Source: Hachards, 187 Piccadilly, London W1

An old-fashioned quest



Romantic tradition: an exhibition in London featuring Frank Dicksee

"End Of The Quest" (left) by Sir Frank Dicksee, president of the Royal Academy between 1924 and 1928, was painted and exhibited in 1921. It refers to no specific historical episode but appears to personify contemporary notions of medieval chivalry. To convey some idea of how old-fashioned this picture must have seemed in its day, pioneer abstract painter Wassily Kandinsky was by this time approaching 60, Picasso had long since exhausted Cubism and in 1917 Marcel Duchamp had set the anarchic Dada movement in train by exhibiting a urinal signed R. Mutt. Dicksee's painting, one of 350 works featured in a new exhibition called *The Last Romanticism*, represents a vein of British art which clung to time-honoured pictorial conventions and ignored avant-garde developments abroad. Like some other RA presidents of his era, Dicksee was a reactionary who denounced modern art as catchpenny, ugly and incapable of producing anything of permanent value. The *Last Romanticism* examines this conventional, anti-Modernist imagination in British art from the 18th century to the 1920s and includes many memorably kitsch Victorian painters. It also includes works by semi-moderns such as Eric Gill, William Orpen and Leon Underwood who were responsive both to convention and innovation. The exhibition starts today at Barbican Art Gallery, London EC2 (01-638 4141), Monday to Saturday, 10am to 6.45pm, Sunday noon-5.45pm, £3, until April 9.

David Lee

★ **THE UNBEARABLE LIGHTNESS OF BEING** (1987): Philip Kaufman's massive and majestic adaptation of Milan Kundera's novel, a story of love and political consciousness set against the Russian invasion of Czechoslovakia. With Daniel Day-Lewis, Juliette Binoche, and Sean Penn. (127 min). Cannon Piccadilly (01-437 3561). Progs 1.00, 3.50, 5.55, 8.15.

★ **WHO FRAMED ROGER RABBIT** (1988): Energetic mixture of cartoons and real life. An animation director, Richard Williams, directs a troupe of "toon" characters, headed by Roger Rabbit. Bob Hoskins plays the dishevelled gumshoe, Eddie Valiant. (104 min). Cannon Chelsea (01-432 5086). Progs 1.40, 4.10, 7.05, 9.40.

★ **WARRIOR WEST END** (1988): A country boy finding it tough going in the big city. Familiar story, but Indian director Mira Nair tells it with an authentic, hard-hitting punch (113 min). Chelsea (01-321 3742). Progs 1.35, 3.55, 6.20, 8.45.

★ **SALAAM BOMBAY** (1988): A country boy finding it tough going in the big city. Familiar story, but Indian director Mira Nair tells it with an authentic, hard-hitting punch (113 min). Chelsea (01-321 3742). Progs 1.35, 3.55, 6.20, 8.45.

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CONCERTS

LUNCHTIME

★ **JOHN BINGHAM**: This pianist offers Haydn's Sonata No. 10 and Schubert's Sonata D. 950. St. George's, Chelsea St, London SW10 (01-872 23055). 1.2pm, £2.50.

★ **CATHERINE FERRARIO**: A soprano, Miss Ferrario sings Berg's 7 Early Songs with Catherine Fennell (piano), with the addition of Joy Roper (clarinet). Schubert's *The Shepherd on the Rock* and Spohr's 6 German Songs Op. 103. St. George's, Chelsea St, London SW10 (01-872 23055). 1.15pm, £2.50.

EVENING

★ **DEATH, TRANSFIGURATION**: The Strauss/Mozart series continues with Sir John Pritchard conducting the BBC SO in Strauss's *Death and*

Transfiguration, Macbeth and, with Faye Robinson (soprano), the closing scene from *Die Walküre* as well as Mozart's *Symphony No. 39*. Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 8800). 7.30-9.30pm. £3-£12.

★ **DEL MAR'S DAY**: Norman Del Mar conducts the Royal Scottish Academy of Music Orchestra in Bank's Concerto for Orchestra, Berg's Violin Concerto (David Clark, soloist) and Webern's *Op. 25* for violin and orchestra. Royal Scottish Academy of Music, 100 Rathbone St, Glasgow (041 332 4101). 7.30pm, £2.

★ **GUILDHALL STRINGS**: The Guildhall String Ensemble is conducted by Timothy Sater in Correll's Concerto Grosso Op. 2 No. 2, pieces from Walton's music for Henry V. Royal Academy of Music, 100 Rathbone St, Glasgow (041 332 4101). 7.30pm, £2.

★ **LA BOHÉME**: Further chance to see Eliza Moshinsky's highly praised Puccini production for Scottish Opera with Jane Eaglen in the title role today. Theatre Royal, Glasgow (041-331 1234). 7.15-10pm. £3-£23.

★ **THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO**: New production for Opera 80 at the start of another nationwide tour. Nor Boton takes up the baton for the first leg. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-438 8891). 7.30-10.40pm and 2.30-5.45pm.

★ **SUK/SCOTT**: Josef Suk conducts the Scottish Chamber Orchestra in Haydn's *Symphony No. 83 "The Hen"*, Janáček's *Kytice*, and also plays in Beethoven's *Romance for violin and orchestra*. Queen's Hall, Clerk St, Edinburgh (031 668 3456). 7.45pm, £2.20-£5.60.

★ **ERICKA WHITE**: The distinguished Spanish conductor Rafael Frunbeck de Burgos has charge of the LSO during Beethoven's *Symphony No. 5 "Fate"* and Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring*. Barbican Centre, Silk St, London EC2 (01-638 8891). 7.45-9.45pm, £4-£15.

★ **TRIPLE BEETHOVEN**: The Trio di Milano solo in Beethoven's Concerto for Piano, Violin and Cello with the Northern Sinfonia under Wilfried Boehmer. For and after Weber's *Peter Schmitt Overture* and Mendelssohn's *Symphony No. 4 "Italian"*. City Hall, College St, Newcastle (091 261 9089). 7.45pm, £2.50-£3.50.

★ **HEAR O'HAGANE**: Mozart's Piano Sonata K. 333, Schumann's *Davidbaderliedchen* and Chopin's Sonata Op. 58 are all heard from Peter O'Hagan. The Warburg, London SE1 (01-928 8800). 8pm, £2.50-£4.50.

OPERA

★ **UN RE IN ASCOLTO**: First night of British premiere of Luciano Berio's little fantasy opera on a libretto by Italo Calvino. The concert hall conducts and Graham Vick directs. Royal Opera House, London WC2 (01-438 8891). 8.30pm, £12 to £23.

★ **LEAR**: High powered performances and superbly conceived production for British premiere from Arden's Reinhardt's opera. English National Opera, Coliseum, St. Martin's Lane, London WC2 (01-438 3161). 7.30-10.30pm, £2.50-£25.

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ROCK

★ **JOHNNY WINTER**: Texan blues guitar legend, who has left 70s *Winter of '89* suggested a return to his best form since the Seventies. Town & Country, 8-17 Highgate Road, London NW5 (01-438 6507). 7.30pm, £7.50-£25.50.

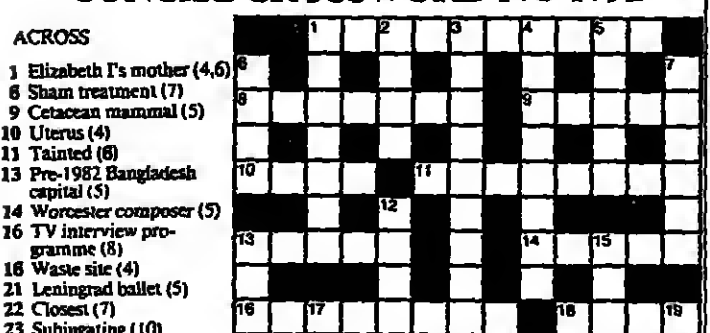
★ **THE JUDES**: Wisconsin mother and daughter New Country duo, originally from Morris, Kentucky. Nelson Mandela Hall, Queens University, Belfast (0232 344803) 8pm, £10.50.

JAZZ

★ **HARRY EDISON**: First of three nights from the ex-Basie trumpeter, aptly nicknamed "Sweetie". He returns to the venue next Wednesday for two nights. Royal Albert Hall, London W1 (01-438 8722). 8.30pm, £3.50, £5.

★ **KEN WHEELER**: The ECM trumpeter appears with a quartet, on the same bill as the promising young Loose Tubes saxophone quartet. The Warburg, London SE1 (01-928 8800). 8pm, £2.50-£4.50.

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1792



- ACROSS**
- Elizabeth's mother (4,6)
 - Shant treatment (7)
 - Cetacean mammal (5)
 - Uterus (4)
 - Tainted (6)
 - Pre-1982 Bangladesh capital (5)
 - Worcester composer (5)
 - TV interview programme (8)
 - Waste site (4)
 - Leiningen ballet (5)
 - Clothes (7)
 - Subjugating (10)
- DOWN**
- Pale, sickly (7)
 - Christmas (4)
 - Good deed marks (7,6)
 - Not high degree (3,5)
 - Fermenting agent (5)
 - Vomit (4)
 - Painful, sore (6)
 - Islands in Egypt (10)
 - Concours (5)
 - Footway (4)
 - Desert watercourse (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1791
ACROSS: 1 Shant, 2 Shant, 3 Shant, 4 Shant, 5 Shant, 6 Shant, 7 Shant, 8 Shant, 9 Shant, 10 Shant, 11 Shant, 12 Shant, 13 Shant, 14 Shant, 15 Shant, 16 Shant, 17 Shant, 18 Shant, 19 Shant, 20 Shant, 21 Shant, 22 Shant, 23 Shant, 24 Shant, 25 Shant, 26 Shant, 27 Shant, 28 Shant, 29 Shant, 30 Shant, 31 Shant, 32 Shant, 33 Shant, 34 Shant, 35 Shant, 36 Shant, 37 Shant, 38 Shant, 39 Shant, 40 Shant, 41 Shant, 42 Shant, 43 Shant, 44 Shant, 45 Shant, 46 Shant, 47 Shant, 48 Shant, 49 Shant, 50 Shant, 51 Shant, 52 Shant, 53 Shant, 54 Shant, 55 Shant, 56 Shant, 57 Shant, 58 Shant, 59 Shant, 60 Shant, 61 Shant, 62 Shant, 63 Shant, 64 Shant, 65 Shant, 66 Shant, 67 Shant, 68 Shant, 69 Shant, 70 Shant, 71 Shant, 72 Shant, 73 Shant, 74 Shant, 75 Shant, 76 Shant, 77 Shant, 78 Shant, 79 Shant, 80 Shant, 81 Shant, 82 Shant, 83 Shant, 84 Shant, 85 Shant, 86 Shant, 87 Shant, 88 Shant, 89 Shant, 90 Shant, 91 Shant, 92 Shant, 93 Shant, 94 Shant, 95 Shant, 96 Shant, 97 Shant, 98 Shant, 99 Shant, 100 Shant, 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Weather joins the North-South divide



Bough Beech reservoir (above), near Edenbridge, Kent, usually full in February, was at only 40 per cent of capacity yesterday, while the River Ness at Inverness almost burst its banks.

By Ruth Gledhill and Andrew Collier

The East Surrey Water Company, which serves 320,000 people in Surrey and Kent, has applied for a drought order from the Department of the Environment as a result of the record winter sunshine.

It wants the power to take more water from the River Eden and to ban garden watering if necessary.

With rainfall in the South at a quarter of normal since last April, the Bough Beech reservoir is only 40 per cent full. "The situation now is worse than it was at the same time in 1976," Mr Ian Foster, the managing director, said.

In the North, however, torrential rain forced the River Ness, which runs through Inverness, to within two inches of overflowing. But emergency

operations were scaled down last night after fears proved groundless that yesterday's spring tide would burst the river banks.

Today, a deepening depression will push a cold front across western parts. The South-east may start dull with some sun later. In the North and West it will be cloudier. Rain will spread east.

MADRID: A tornado accompanied by hailstones ripped off roofs and shattered windows in Estepona on the Costa del Sol yesterday and torrential rains flooded the streets of Fuengirola (Harry Debelius writes).



Secret report backs salmonella fear

Continued from page 1

problem was implemented. Evidence revealed that eggs were often contaminated through the shell by faeces containing salmonella.

"The organisms may be absorbed through the shell during the period immediately after the eggs have been laid while the egg is cooling. Although the factors influencing this phenomenon have been investigated... the mechanisms which govern the transmission of bacteria through the shell have not been fully elucidated."

Some outbreaks have been caused by direct contamination

of food from the egg shell because of poor handling practices, the report adds. But that would not explain the big increase in cases last year.

"The possibility that salmonella is more frequently gaining access to the egg content from either the shell surface or environment due to one or more new factors was not discounted."

The report says three recent developments may be helping to spread infection - more free-range eggs, keeping eggs chilled during distribution and new methods of packaging such as shrink wrap.

The group called for more research to find out how well eggs should be cooked to destroy the infection. A Public Health Laboratory pilot study found that salmonella enteritidis could survive in cooked eggs which contained some liquid yolk.

"The results of the investigation would enable better advice to be given to consumers," the report said.

The working group found little evidence of contamination through feed stuffs produced in Britain, even feed containing processed protein made from poultry or other farm animals.

There have been some infections from imported processed animal proteins, particularly from India, Pakistan and Ecuador.

The officials ask for information to be collected urgently on:

● The proportion and geographical distribution of infected flocks.

● The proportion of infected birds in infected flocks.

● Relative levels of infections in caged birds and birds in alternative systems of egg production.

Whitehall exodus

Continued from page 1

departments an interim target of dispersing 20,000 officials away from London. He will emphasize the benefits to Civil Servants of moving and the reduced costs from relocating to areas where office rentals are lower and clerical staff easier to recruit.

The Treasury scheme copes with Department of the Environment plans to squeeze local authority renting in London.

The first big scheme for dispersing Civil Servants began in 1940. Subsequent drives were launched by Mr Harold Wilson in the 1960s and Mr

Edward Heath in 1973. Up to the beginning of 1988, Mr Thatcher's term had seen nearly 6,000 officials move, 2,000 of them to Scotland.

Last year the Inland Revenue confirmed plans to locate more of its central tax districts in Scotland and the North and clerical staff easier to recruit.

The Property Services Agency has been organizing leases for government offices in provincial cities.

Political sketch

A full House for the Edwina show

Eat your heart out, Lady Di. There was a crowd outside the gates of Parliament yesterday waiting for Edwina Currie to arrive - just to see her pass! I rang Keith Prowse (Theatre Bookings) but it was no use. "Edwina Currie and the Select Committee, sir? Sorry. Tickets like gold dust, sir. Can't get them for love nor money. Now we could do you Phantom of the Opera on Friday at £120, sir, or I could get you into The Select Committee on Statutory Instruments right away - front seats, as many as you like. Edwina - sure - but Edwina? Not at any price, sir."

So there was nothing for it but to queue. Meanwhile, Select Committee members were already within, behind the oak doors of the Grand Committee Room, conferring privately, we were told, before the public event.

Maybe so. No doubt it was only in one's imagination that the tall, dark and rugged MP for Gloucester, West, Paul Marland, was applying just a touch of "Grecian 2000" before the lights went up.

Perhaps it was just in idle fancy that one saw the Health Secretary, Kenneth Clarke, ensconced in his dressing-room, selecting the most double-breasted and gangsterish of his many Chicago-style suits, for the occasion.

Well, how did she perform?

The star-billing was for an ex-Parliamentary Under Secretary - the most junior kind of minister known to our constitution - in the Health Department.

The curtain-raisers were mere Secretaries of State, the bosses of their respective Ministries of Agriculture and Health. We had to hear them, first.

First came the Minister of Agriculture, John MacGregor. The chairman of the Select Committee, Jerry Wiggin, peered headmasterly at him over half-moon glasses. Mr Wiggin's reputation is for being unnecessarily unpleasant. He added to that, importantly, yesterday, by being unnecessarily pleasant.

Would Mr MacGregor like to comment on Mrs Currie's latest statement that "a significant number" of hens were affected by salmonella?

Mr MacGregor did not, as

it transpired, wish to comment on that, or on almost anything else of interest to the Committee, press, and public. Nor did he. And he spent the better part of an hour doing it. All in all a very skilful performance from a man who will go far, unnoticed.

For the most part, Mr Wiggin let him get on with it - or rather not get on with it - bubbling happily away with that combination of accuracy, unspectacularity, and irrelevance which marks out the natural-born politician.

Kenneth Clarke squirmed more interestingly. He went a little beyond duty in supporting the person he endearingly called "Edwina". He wouldn't even reject her first statement ("Most of the egg production... etc") when Mr MacGregor had declined to back her second (climbdown) position ("A significant number of hens etc").

On it went. From time to time, some flurry at the back of the room caused all to crane their necks round - as with the expected entrance of the bride - in case it should be Edwina.

Eventually it was. And how do we sum up her performance? She summed it up for herself in her opening statement (which she insisted on being allowed to make, as a Queen might, before being executed). She had had cards and letters from all over the world, she said. She was so grateful. She would be replying to all, in due course.

And that was it, really. It is true that a number of questions were put to her. ("Of course we are all in public life," said Richard Alexander, hopefully) but on the whole she could not remember the answers, or declined to reveal private conversations, or had nothing to add. Occasionally her voice would go rather faint. Someone brought her water, and she smiled graciously, wanly, at him.

Your sketchwriter suspects that she is suffering from genuine nervous exhaustion. He would be. But if she is not, then this was a performance which places our young star firmly in the tradition of St Joan, Mary Queen of Scots, and Imelda Staunton.

Matthew Parris

Private war on crime

Continued from page 1

involved in the plans and this will be a feature of schemes elsewhere.

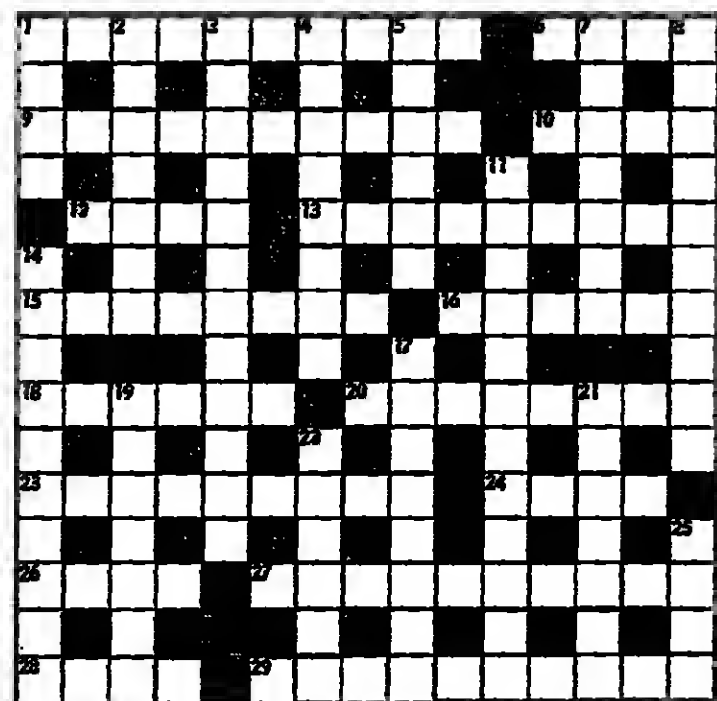
Mr Nigel Whiffin, chief executive of Crime Concern, said yesterday: "Crime costs all of us a great deal of money."

He added: "A good stable crime-free community is good for business." Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, said yesterday he would be seeking further "substantial increases" in police manpower.

His announcement came as West Midlands police said that it was seeking permission from Mr Hurd to recruit an extra 350 officers, despite figures showing that recorded crime in the region fell by 11 per cent last year. This was the biggest drop in the history of the force.

Separately, Mr Hurd said in a parliamentary answer that limits on the time people can be held in custody in criminal proceedings in England and Wales are to be extended to 22 more counties from June 1.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 17,901



- ACROSS**
- Headgear from Melton Mowbray? (4,3,3).
 - Slough not finished off by god (4).
 - A relative in the army retired into the country (5-5).
 - Team sounded unhappy - listen to it (4).
 - Discover the absence of a girl (4).
 - Agreement to raise the standard (5,4).
 - Fellow importing silver here from abroad - he works wonders (8).
 - It could be acquired by breaking the law (6).
 - Parisian who, in turn, is free (6).
 - Former union member, one covered in confusion (8).
 - Talk quickly, tipster. One tip's been backed already (4,2,3).
 - Girl some called Naomi (4).
 - Shed a tear, perhaps (4).
 - Grounds for committal (10).
 - Deplored blunt speaking (4).
 - Erotic gear can be obtained from this shop (10).
- DOWN**
- Boy playing one of the Merry Wives of Windsor? (4).
 - Fuming about Englishman (7).
 - Shut up and do this if your shoe's too big (3,1,4,2,2).
 - Anaesthetic laid prone out (8).
 - It's cold in a large vehicle, very cold (6).
 - Girl taking a lot of trouble (7).
 - If he's taken wrongfully, he's a criminal (5-5).
 - Head is confidential (5,4,3).
 - He's found in capitals (10).
 - The sort of present that covers what happened earlier (8).
 - Don't team put up in tag (7).
 - Monster coin, gold rand (7).
 - Stuns woman - that's correct (6).
 - Thought middleman's odds sufficient (4).

WORD-WATCHING

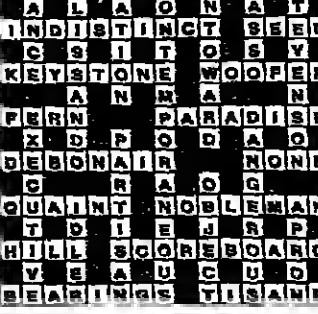
A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

- PEBON**
- A lighthouse
 - A blue blood capers
 - An arrow head
- SPRAINT**
- One's dung
 - A badly twisted limb
 - A quarter of the zodiac
 - A vice for games
- CADRANS**
- A quarter of the zodiac
 - A vice for games
 - Faggots at Harrow
- MURICATE**
- Pointed
 - To excrete blood
 - A moustache sweetmeat

Answers on page 22

Solution to Puzzle No 17,900



WEATHER

Intervals developing. Cloudier further north and west. Rainfall spread east by evening. Brighter weather following but with showers in the north. Generally mild but windy. Outlook: unsettled and colder.

ABROAD

MONDAY	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
Algeria	14-27	15-28	16-29	17-30	18-31	19-32
Algeria	14-27	15-28	16-29	17-30	18-31	19-32
Algeria	14-27	15-28	16-29	17-30	18-31	19-32
Algeria	14-27	15-28	16-29	17-30	18-31	19-32
Algeria	14-27	15-28	16-29	17-30	18-31	19-32
Algeria	14-27	15-28	16-29	17-30	18-31	19-32
Algeria	14-27	15-28	16-29	17-30	18-31	19-32
Algeria	14-27	15-28	16-29	17-30	18-31	19-32
Algeria	14-27	15-28	16-29	17-30	18-31	19-32
Algeria	14-27	15-28	16-29	17-30	18-31	19-32

AROUND BRITAIN

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
14-27	15-28	16-29	17-30	18-31	19-32	20-33
14-27	15-28	16-29	17-30	18-31	19-32	20-33
14-27	15-28	16-29	17-30	18-31	19-32	20-33
14-27	15-28	16-29	17-30	18-31	19-32	20-33
14-27	15-28	16-29	17-30	18-31	19-32	20-33
14-27	15-28	16-29	17-30	18-31	19-32	20-33
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14-27	15-28	16-29	17-30	18-31	19-32	20-33

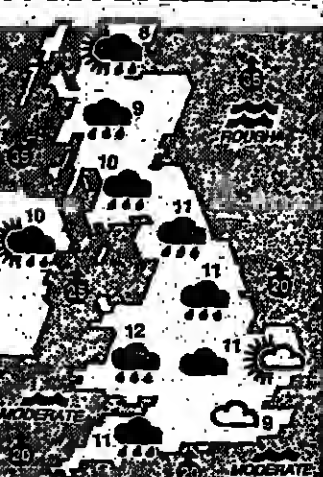
HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	3:42	7.5	4:18	7.6
London Bridge	3:42	7.5	4:18	7.6
London Bridge	3:42	7.5	4:18	7.6
London Bridge	3:42	7.5	4:18	7.6
London Bridge	3:42	7.5	4:18	7.6
London Bridge	3:42	7.5	4:18	7.6
London Bridge	3:42	7.5	4:18	7.6
London Bridge	3:42	7.5	4:18	7.6
London Bridge	3:42	7.5	4:18	7.6
London Bridge	3:42	7.5	4:18	7.6

AM



PM



YESTERDAY

Temp	Wind	Cloud
14-27	15-28	16-29
14-27	15-28	16-29
14-27	15-28	16-29
14-27	15-28	16-29
14-27	15-28	16-29
14-27	15-28	16-29
14-27	15-28	16-29
14-27	15-28	16-29
14-27	15-28	16-29
14-27	15-28	16-29

LONDON

Temp	Wind	Cloud
14-27	15-28	16-29
14-27	15-28	16-29
14-27	15-28	16-29
14-27	15-28	16-29
14-27	15-28	16-29
14-27	15-28	16-29
14-27	15-28	16-29
14-27	15-28	16-29
14-27	15-28	16-29
14-27	15-28	16-29

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Temp	Wind	Cloud
14-27	15-28	16-29
14-27	15-28	16-29
14-27	15-28	16-29
14-27	15-28	16-29
14-27	15-28	16-29
14-27	15-28	16-29
14-27	15-28	16-29
14-27	15-28	16-29
14-27	15-28	16-29
14-27	15-28	16-29

LIGHTING-UP TIME

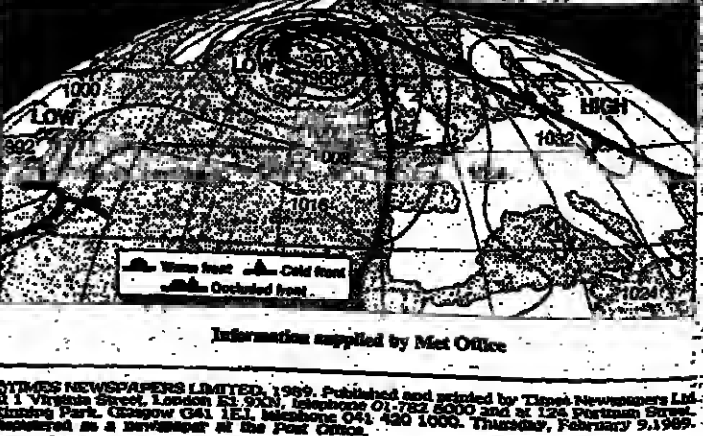
Temp	Wind	Cloud
14-27	15-28	16-29
14-27	15-28	16-29
14-27	15-28	16-29
14-27	15-28	16-29
14-27	15-28	16-29
14-27	15-28	16-29
14-27	15-28	16-29
14-27	15-28	16-29
14-27	15-28	16-29
14-27	15-28	16-29

MANCHESTER

Temp	Wind	Cloud
14-27	15-28	16-29
14-27	15-28	16-29
14-27	15-28	16-29
14-27	15-28	16-29
14-27	15-28	16-29
14-27	15-28	16-29
14-27	15-28	16-29
14-27	15-28	16-29
14-27	15-28	16-29
14-27	15-28	16-29

NOON TODAY

Temp	Wind	Cloud
14-27	15-28	16-29
14-27	15-28	16-29
14-27	15-28	16-29
14-27	15-28	16-29
14-27	15-28	16-29
14-27	15-28	16-29
14-27	15-28	16-29
14-27	15-28	16-29
14-27	15-28	16-29
14-27	15-28	16-29



Information supplied by Met Office

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

THE POUND

US dollar
1.7440 (-0.0005)
West German mark
3.2856 (+0.0104)
Exchange index
97.5 (+0.1)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1714.7 (+19.8)
FT-SE 100
2096.2 (+23.4)
USM (Datastream)
164.96 (+1.22)

UK to fight
new tax

The Treasury is to maintain from opposition to a European Commission proposal for a 15 per cent withholding tax on investment income unveiled yesterday in Brussels.

SE inquiry

The Stock Exchange is investigating share deals in Personal Computers, the micro-computer dealer, ahead of a £11.5 million agreed bid from P&P, the computer distributor.

Bridon sale

Bridon is selling its 40 per cent stake in TWIL, the wine merchant, fencing and nails group.

STOCK MARKETS

New York	2364.29 (+7.15)
Dow Jones	2364.29 (+7.15)
Nikkei Average	32065.12 (+184.47)
Hong Kong	Closed
Amsterdam	3107 (+3.0)
Sydney	1591.3 (+3.0)
Frankfurt	1701.2 (+14.2)
Brussels	5701.02 (+45.82)
General	456.4 (+4.4)
Zurich	589.4 (+5.9)
London	
FT-30 Share	1714.7 (+19.8)
FT-100	2096.2 (+23.4)
FT-1000	1182.53 (+10.51)
FT-10000	1662.1 (+0.4)
FT-100000	89.29 (+0.41)
FT-1000000	89.29 (+0.41)
Recent prices	Page 31
Closing prices	Page 31

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

REISS:	
Barclays	483p (+20p)
Midland	478p (+11p)
Nat West	428p (+11p)
First Eastern	415p (+13p)
Handerson Adm	780p (+20p)
Ladbroke	530p (+15p)
VIS Instruments	290p (+10p)
Bassett Foods	570p (+10p)
Southern	580p (+20p)
Davies & Newman	725p (+17p)
Shirton	830p (+40p)
Clarke Comm	730p (+30p)
Harrison Crosst	432p (+15p)
J Smurfit	637p (+13p)
WEP	637p (+13p)
F&LS	
Scottish & New	422p (-7p)
A Cohen	925p (-20p)
Pearson	740p (-8p)
Closing prices	
SEAQ Volume	44032
SEAQ Value	£32.5m

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base	13%
3-month Interbank	13.12-12%
3-month eligible bills	12%-12.12%
US Prime Rate	10.5%
Federal Funds	9.5%
3-month Treasury bills	8.50-8.45%
30-year bonds	10.25-10.2%

CURRENCIES

London:	
£/\$	\$1.7415
£/DM	DM1.8725
£/Sfr	Sfr1.5820
£/FF	FF6.5735
£/Yen	Yen129.82
£/Ind	Ind37.5
£/ECU	ECU 0.63972
SOX	SOX 0.751848

GOLD

London Fixing:	
AM \$390.40 pm \$390.55	
close \$390.25-390.75 (\$224.00-224.50)	
New York:	
Comex \$390.20-390.70	

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Mar) pm \$16.05 (\$16.00)	
Domestic latest trading price	

THE TIMES

STOCK WATCH

0898 141 141

News on Stockwatch included: A brokers profit upgrading saw ICI (01348) climb 19p and a buy recommendation took Harrison and Crossfield (02356) up 29p; Thom (02017) dipped 5p on profits fears and First Leisure (08056) lost 8p on a bid denial.

Cuckney's Metsun lives on to fight another day

By Colin Nurbrough

Sir John Cuckney has made clear that Metsun, the consortium which last month aborted plans to launch a bid for Lord Weinstock's General Electric Company (GEC), is still very much alive and likely to renew its efforts to block a GEC-Siemens takeover of Plessey.

Speaking yesterday after he had stepped down as chairman of Westland, the helicopter firm over which two Cabinet ministers resigned, Sir John said he was working "assiduously" on the

Metsun concept and would be able to give it more time now he was freed from Westland.

Though he declined to go into details concerning the consortium's new plans, he said it was a "moving ball situation".

He said it had been the rapidly changing circumstances of the battle over Plessey that had forced Metsun to withdraw, but underlined that circumstances were open to change.

Since Metsun withdrew in January, GEC and its West German ally have amended their £1.7 billion

hostile bid for control of Plessey, putting forward new proposals concerning the target company's £750 million defence business designed to allay Ministry of Defence fears about reduced competition among its suppliers.

Metsun, which originally planned to take over GEC and break it up, included Plessey, Thomson, France's state-controlled electronics giant, was also behind the deal, as too was American Telephone and Telegraph.

Potential conflicts of interest

between Plessey and its consortium partners has been widely seen as the cause of Sir John's decision to drop Metsun's initial assault on GEC.

Baring Brothers, who have taken over the role of Metsun's City advisers from Lazard Brothers, were last night not prepared to comment on Sir John's latest remarks.

But the fierce fight he put up over Westland and the need to maintain a domestic helicopter capacity in Britain suggest to many observers that last month's move

over GEC could have been only a tactical retreat.

In his last words as chairman to the Westland shareholders, Sir John said there had been a sharp improvement in the order book and the group last year achieved its highest operating profit ever.

He recalled his forecast that full recovery at Westland would take five years.

Though only three years into the programme, he said he felt the necessary action to ensure a successful future had been taken.

GKN's acquisition of a 22.02 per

cent stake in the company was an

important display of confidence in the company, he said.

The long-term commitment to Westland of United Technologies Corporation, the American group, was similarly important.

Sir Leslie Fletcher, joint deputy chairman, succeeds Sir John as chairman. Mr Hugh Stewart, who resigned as chief executive in December, has not been replaced yet, but Mr Alexander Daly, GKN's managing director, defence, will be acting chief executive.

Pressure for
£5bn write-off
of water debt

By Graham Searjeant, Financial Editor

The Government is under pressure to write off most of the water authorities' £5 billion debt, in order to help make a success of the sale of their shares to the public.

It is now emerging that accounting changes, penalties for lapses of supply and political pressure to limit future price rises seem certain to reduce the water authorities' profits, increase risks and severely limit potential profit growth.

This has raised fears in the City and Whitehall that the most complex and costly privatization yet attempted — may fail to appeal to the mass of private investors at which it will be aimed, at the expected valuation of £5 billion.

Plans are already being laid for more than 500,000 full prospectuses of more than 300 pages each to be printed to cover the simultaneous, but separate, launch of the 10 authorities. There would also be more than 15 million colour-printed mini-prospectuses for private investors.

The new worries centre on an accounting change which could reduce published profits by up to 20 per cent and force the Government to com-

pensate by cutting the authorities' debt and interest burdens.

After privatization, maintenance and repair of the fabric of water and sewerage pipes and works will be treated as operating not capital cost.

Removing debt would also lessen the risk to dividends from heavy penalties being written into the Water Bill for supply failures caused by anything but natural forces.

The Department of the Environment will decide today whether strikes will be also treated as an excuse for failure to supply. The authorities fear penalties for strikes could give power to militants.

The Department and the authorities are also concerned about proposals from the National Rivers Authority that would require set standards on effluent to be met all the time, instead of a national 95 per cent of the time.

The Government and Schroders, its banking advisers, have already prepared the next phase of advertising for the flotation. This will emphasize the security of profits, paying the way for the shares to be marketed on the basis of low growth but a high dividend yield.

But the Government has been told it would need to cut the authorities' overall debt heavily and not merely

redistribute them if they are to pay safe, high dividends without big price rises.

All these decisions will need to be taken before individual price controls can be set for all 10 authorities and 29 statutory water companies.

From 1990-91, prices for the next 10 years will only be allowed to rise in line with the retail price adjusted by a constant K set to allow for extra investment and costs to meet water and sewerage standards as well as possible further cost savings.

After the dispute over price rises linked to the privatization Bill, particularly the catching up increases by statutory water companies, the Government is under strong political pressure to impose low figures for K, possibly on average as little as 2 per cent above inflation.

On the present schedule, authorities have until the end of March to send Deloitte, the Government's accounting adviser, annual projections of 560 accounting figures of costs, revenue and cash flow involving imponderables such as interest rates. Deloitte will then adjust these and recommend K values to the Government in mid-May.

There are already fears projections 10 years ahead could prove unrealistic.

Comment, page 27

Soviet minister's London shopping trip



Mr Vladimir Kamensky, the chairman of the Soviet Union's State Foreign Economic Commission, samples the delights of Western consumerism with Mr David Sainsbury (left) at a Sainsbury store in Kentish Town, London, yesterday. Mr Kamensky is on a four-day visit to the UK, and today will meet 30 representatives of the CBI in the capital.

News Corp
issues
to raise
£230m

By Our City Staff

The News Corporation, Mr Rupert Murdoch's international media group, is raising about £230 million by issues of securities convertible into part of its 18 per cent holding in Pearson, the finance, publishing and leisure company which owns the Financial Times.

Following similar issues a year ago, News Corporation has now refinanced the whole of its stake in Pearson.

The convertible issues have the effect of reducing the cost of holding the 44.5 million Pearson shares.

But The News Corporation retains the flexibility to supply a cash equivalent instead of Pearson shares when the securities are converted.

The issues are being made by Cayman Islands subsidiaries of the group and are lead managed by Credit Suisse First Boston.

About £150 million and 100 million Dutch florins (£27 million) are being raised through issues of new convertible preference shares and there is a further £175 million (£34 million) offering of convertible bonds.

The final terms will be fixed later, but the securities are expected to carry coupons in the range of 5 per cent to 7 per cent, well below the cost of loan finance.

Elders 'faces earnings drop'

By Wolfgang Muehchan

Elders IXL, the Australian brewing group, is expected to report a fall in earnings per share in the current year, says ANZ McCaughan Securities, the Australian broker.

ANZ's forecast is likely to fuel market expectations that Elders needs a big acquisition well before the end of its financial year in June, in order to avert possible earnings dilution.

In a brokers' circular ANZ forecasts earnings per share of 39 Australian cents (20p), a

fall from last year's 39.83 cents readjusted for a one-for-five bonus issue in December, against previous market expectations of a rise to more than 40 cents.

ANZ revised its net profits forecast down from Aus\$790 million to Aus\$700 million (against Aus\$684.9 million in the year to June 1988) because Elders' Agribusiness division is operating at about 25 per cent below budget. Last year it accounted for 13 per cent of Elders' operating profits and 57 per cent of revenue. Elders is currently awaiting the out-

come of an MMC inquiry into its £1.6 billion bid for Scottish & Newcastle Breweries. As an alternative to a bid for S&N, Elders Investments, a 100 per cent owned Elders IXL subsidiary, is preparing the ground for a possible offer for all or part of MB Group.

Elders IXL is due to report its interim results for the six months to end-December next Tuesday. According to the forecast, these will show a rise in net profit from Aus\$272 million to Aus\$315 million, with earnings per share up from 16.1c to 17.6c.

Ladbroke
poised to
win T-Line

By Martin Waller

The struggle for Thomson T-Line, the industrial conglomerate which owns Vernons pools, could finally be over, after acceptance of the £186 million offer from Ladbroke by the T-Line board.

Ladbroke was in the market last night, trying to make certain of its victory, buying at least 14 per cent of T-Line's share price came back up to 90p. This adds to its 1.3 per cent holding, and it has acceptance totalling 11.78 per cent from the T-Line board.

A spokesman for Ladbroke said the industrial businesses owned by T-Line would be sold.

One apparent result of the acceptance from Mr Hugo Biermann and Mr Julian Askin, the two entrepreneurs who built up T-Line, is a small loss suffered by Hanson, which bought more than 4 per cent up to 94p and accepted the 90p Ladbroke offer yesterday in respect of its holding.

Minorco delayed
by EEC inquiry

By Colin Campbell

Minorco, now cleared by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission to bid again for Consolidated Gold Fields, will have to wait "at least two weeks" for the verdict of the European Commission which will determine whether the Luxembourg-based investment group can proceed with its original ConsGold take-over plans.

Sir Leon Brittan, the EEC Competition Commissioner, says competition officials will need that time to hear representations from both parties.

The hold-up is thus likely to stretch to the limit the 21-day period during which, under City Takeover rules, Minorco can relaunch its bid.

A Minorco board meeting is understood to be scheduled for February 16, at which a final decision on whether to rebid will be made.

Meanwhile, the war of words between Mr Rudolph

Agnew, ConsGold chairman, and Sir Michael Edwards, Minorco's deputy chairman, continues.

Mr Agnew, responding to Sir Michael's criticism of talks ConsGold held last autumn with Placer Dome, when ConsGold's 49 per cent stake in Newmont Mining was discussed, says Newmont "is one of the jewels" in the ConsGold crown.

"It is nonsense for Sir Michael to suggest that because of an unpromoted approach ConsGold was interested in selling the Newmont stake. If Sir Michael had a background in natural resources and understood gold mining, rather than asset stripping, he would not make such ludicrous statements."

This week Newmont said its gold reserves increased last year by 1.34 million ounces to 16.3 million ounces, the largest reserves of any North American producer.

Operating losses since Big Bang reach £190m

Shine taken off the gilt-edged market

By David Smith

Economics Correspondent

It must be the most expensive club in London, unless there is another organization which charges its members an average of more than £3.5 million a year.

The club in question is the gilt-edged market, and its management, the Bank of England, revealed yesterday that members had run up a total of £190 million in operating losses in the period since Big Bang — October 27, 1986.

The Bank's figure for gilt market-making losses, contained in a special article released ahead of the publication of the February Quarterly Bulletin, is rather larger than unofficial guesses.

It helps explain why the number of market-makers in gilts has shrunk from an original 27 in October 1986, to 22 now. It begs the question of why there have not been even more withdrawals.

The market began with gilt-edged market-makers' capital of £595 million. This has been supplemented with a further injection of £85 million of capi-

tal, while a net £70 million has disappeared from the market as firms have withdrawn from market-making. Operating losses of £190 million reduced market-makers' capital further, so that by the end of 1988 it was £420 million.

The Bank's article underlines the fact that the gains accruing from the new-style gilt market have been unevenly distributed. The Bank is perfectly happy with the market.

"The new market structure has achieved a considerable measure of success in meeting the objectives identified at the outset," the Bank says, and these objectives included more liquidity, greater competition and the widespread use of the latest technology.

Investors using the market are generally happy with things, according to soundings made by the Bank last year. But the market-makers, sitting on cumulative operating losses of £190 million, and operating in the new environment of public sector debt repayments and new issue starvation, are not so joyful.

Not that things are entirely black.

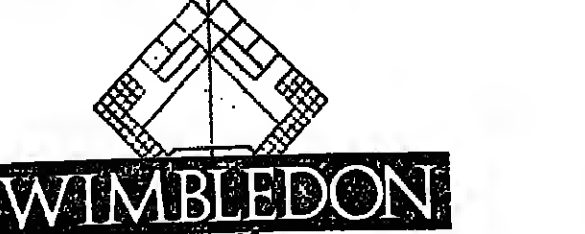
There have been two periods in which most of the losses were made. The first was about the time of the June 1987 election, when far too many market-makers gambled and lost, to the tune of £4 million a week.

The second period, from just after the March 1988 Budget until the end of the year, was a difficult market environment but, in similar circumstances to those prevailing in mid-1987, market-makers halved their losses to £2 million a week, by being better at it. The Bank cites clear progress "up the learning curve" by market-makers.

In the final quarter of last year, a third of market-makers were in profit, and a third kept losses to under £1 million.

In addition, while the supply of new issues from the Bank has dried up, and the Bank has been buying in gilts from the market-makers have moved into other fixed interest areas.

For the market-makers, and the Bank, the hope is that public fixed interest borrowing will be replaced by its private sector counterpart.



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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Soviet restructuring hits Dowty venture

Dowty Group's mining equipment unit said restructuring, or perestroika, in the Soviet Union has delayed a planned coal joint venture. Mr Bill Acton, a director of Dowty Mining Equipment, said responsibility for coal production allocation had been moved from Moscow to individual regions.

Dowty would receive coal in payment for the venture — a mining equipment factory — and then sell it abroad. Mr Acton said the delay arose because Dowty's Soviet partners now had to go around the regions to receive coal commitments to fund the venture.

Hanson sells subsidiary

Hanson said it has signed a definitive agreement to sell its Hygrade Food Products Corporation subsidiary to Sara Lee Corporation for \$140 million (£90.36 million) in cash and the assumption of debt. Hygrade makes processed meats and had sales of \$244.9 million and pre-tax profits of \$12.1 million for the year to end-September.

Trust ahead 31% to £8.8m

Scottish American Investment Trust yesterday reported pre-tax income up 31 per cent up to £8.8 million for 1988. Earnings are up 30 per cent to 2.81p a share and the net asset value per share has gone up 9.6 per cent to 112p a share. The final dividend is up 23 per cent to 2.57p a share. The shares rose 1½p to 103½p.

St Modwen doubles

St Modwen Properties, the property development and investment company, more than doubled pre-tax profits up from £2.62 million to £5.23 million on turnover up from £12.1 million to £17.3 million in the year to end-November. The company's annual rent roll is now in excess of £3 million and more than covers the overhead costs.

The company said that gearing had been reduced to 21 per cent. Earnings per share rose from 2.2p to 3.5p. Net asset value per share was up from a previous 20.3p to 29.0p. The final and total dividend for the year is 0.8p (0.5p).

Sovereign Oil gives up well

Sovereign Oil & Gas has abandoned its first deep exploration well on the Welsh border in licence block EXL 080. But Sovereign said that it planned further seismic work on the adjacent licence block, EXL 158 in Hereford and Worcester, in the spring. Sovereign shares rose 3½p to 177½p on the news.

TR City in 35% advance

TR City of London raised pre-tax revenue 35 per cent to £4.26 million in the six months to end-December. The net asset value per share rose 9 per cent to 85.9p a share. Directors say the outlook is "excellent", but are cautious on the impact of the high pound and interest rates on consumer-related sectors later this year.

Sutherland at £2.9m

Sutherland Holdings, the USM-quoted food group, almost trebled pre-tax profits from £980,000 to £2.9 million on turnover up from £49.2 million to £85.4 million for the 52 weeks to end-December. The increase was a result of a manufacturing rationalization and a capital investment programme. The year-end has been changed to end-April.

The company has reduced its exposure in the slaughtering business through the sale of three slaughtering plants. Earnings per share rose to 6.85p (2.5p). The dividend for the period is 0.85p compared with a total of 1.1p for 1987.

Generous look to bid terms for PC

Personal Computers was cock-a-hoop over its contract to supply equipment for the Jean Michel Jarré lasers-and-synthesizers extravaganza in London's Docklands last year. But the rain poured down, the crowds stayed away and PC probably lost a great deal of money.

PC's City critics say the episode was typical of the company's fortunes. But PC's relationships with the Square Mile have never been good, especially since PC blamed City institutions who had not paid their bills for £750,000 of provisions it had to make in the current year.

So the £11.5 million bid from P&P, chaired by Professor Roland Smith, is seen as a clear rescue by a company that runs a tight ship, and in this light the terms, one new P&P for each PC, look generous. P&P is acquiring a large slice of the market in the South, some much-needed premises, a further 12 big corporate customers and annual turnover of £35 million, while moving into equal first place in the personal computer distribution market in this country with its rival MBS.

It is also acquiring debts of £5 million and debtors of £7.5 million. PC has already said it will make a substantial loss in the first half of its financial year, to end-November, and its profits contribution to its new parent over the next nine months is unlikely to top £500,000.

News of the acquisition, marred by an apparent leak which saw buying orders in the barely-traded PC shares the night before, was greeted with a marked lack of enthusiasm, the shares edging back 1p to 230p in yesterday's roaring market.

This was despite some full-year figures from P&P itself which showed pre-tax profits up 83 per cent to £7.5 million and earnings per share 57 per cent ahead. The company was running on net margins increased from 5.69 per cent to 7.05 per cent, with 8 per cent the target for this year.

Mr Patrick Wellington, electronics analyst at County NatWest WoodMac, is looking for £10.5 million pre-tax from the enlarged group, implying an expensive price-earnings multiple of 12.3, while the prospective dividend yield is an unexciting 3.2 per cent.

Until the benefits of the PC purchase are demonstrated, therefore, the shares should make little headway.

Union Discount

The Chancellor has not made life easy for discount houses over the past year. If proof were needed, Union Discount's results confirm what a catastrophic time it has been.

Discount houses rarely make much money when interest rates are rising, and never before have there been nine base rate rises in a row. The problem became more acute because Union had been expecting a rise in rates early last year and was caught in February with its trading book the wrong way round. That meant big losses.

Union feels that limiting the damage to a two-thirds drop in profits was a pretty good performance, and on that it is right. But it shows how little the company has really managed to stabilize its earnings



To the rescue: Roland Smith, whose P&P is bidding £11.5 million for Personal Computers

by diversifying into non-discount house activities.

These now include futures, leasing, market-making in smaller equities and fund management. They made up 40 per cent of disclosed group profits — an impressive figure until one remembers just how small that profit is. In a good year for the discount house business, the contribution from other activities would be relatively insignificant.

Compared with some of its more successfully diversified competitors Union's shares look expensive at about 520p. The 7.7 per cent yield is above that of most other discount houses, mainly no bid expectations (probably misplaced) arising from Sir Ron Brierley's

17 per cent stake.

The shares are also being held up by Union's generous dividend, up 1.3p to 30p. Company policy is to keep dividends in line with inflation but this year's increase, in the face of such a drop in profits, suggests great confidence in the profit prospects for 1989.

Certainly, the prospects will improve since we must now be at, or near, the top of the interest rate cycle. Union expects the credit squeeze to last at least until mid-summer as the Government gets the pain over and done with early in its current term of office. This means that most of Union's profits will be made in the second half of the year.

Assuming this to be the case, disclosed profits of about £8 million seem likely. But that is still well below the 1987 result.

Bridon

Untying the TWIL knot has taken the new management at Bridon a couple of tough-talking years. It was well worth the trouble. One way or another, the wire ropes group can claim to be £50 million better off for ridding itself of a 40 per cent stake in an admittedly profitable company where it had no management control and which contributed £1.3 million in dividends last year.

The origins of the TWIL stake, and its reduced, 25 per cent voting rights, are obscured in the mists of pre-war history, but the investment was not that a virile new management, bent on restructuring one of Britain's oldest industrial companies, was unlikely to live with indefinitely.

Few, however, could have foreseen that the disentangling could have been achieved at such a good price. The deal hoists Bridon's net assets to £118 million, giving it almost full net asset backing. The companies clawed back from the deal earned £3 million last year, the cash, uninvested, will yield another £3 million, and analysts, in any case, are currently upgrading the group trading forecasts.

Mr Rory Sweetman of BZW reckons Bridon will report £14 million for 1988, against a rationalization and redundancy-hit 1987 figure of £7.7 million. Now £20 million looks possible for the current year, and, given the nature of the TWIL de-merger scheme, the tax charge will fall too, enhancing earnings further.

Some of the cash has been tentatively earmarked for Bridon's planned acquisition of Bethlehem Steel's substantial, though currently unprofitable, wire rope operations, a deal mooted six months ago but becoming increasingly enmeshed in the red tape of the Federal Trade Commission. But there are other options, and a deal in Europe does not look too far away.

While hard to be precise, in the wake of this and other changes within the group, it seems clear that even at the peak of yesterday's surge, 200p, the prospective 1989 p/e is well short of double figures. Expect the buyers back once the sums have been done.

November rise in American tourists

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

The number of North American tourists visiting Britain in November showed an increase of 23 per cent over the figure a year before. During the first 11 months of last year visitor traffic was down 2 per cent.

Overall, overseas visitors, which includes business travellers as well as tourists, rose

11 per cent in November, to 1.04 million, compared with November 1987. A fifth of these were from north America. The number of visitors from western Europe rose 13 per cent.

Britons made 1.7 million visits abroad in November, a 6 per cent rise. The continued popularity of the United

States as a destination was shown by the 21 per cent increase in the number of Britons going there.

The travel account of the UK balance of payments is estimated to have ended up with a £55 million deficit in November, compared with a £27 million surplus the year before.

Virani pays Brent Walker £15.5m for public houses

By Michael Tate

Mr Nazmu Virani's Control Securities is paying Mr George Walker's Brent Walker leisure and property group £15.5 million for 84 London public houses.

The houses are part of the 386-strong estate Mr Walker acquired from Grand Metropolitan for £47.5 million last March.

The deal establishes Control as one of the country's largest independent public house chains, with 544 houses nationwide — as the brewing industry awaits the Monopolies and Mergers Commission

findings on the tied-house system. Only last month, it bought 128 freehold public houses from GrandMet in a £21 million deal, and also recently acquired, for £18 million, the Belhaven Brewery of Edinburgh, which it sold two years before for £25 million.

Mr Virani said the group is "well on its way to its strategic objective of having a major network of freehold public houses throughout Britain."

Many of the public houses acquired will become "jewels in our leisure division's

crown," he added. All are free of tie, "which permits us not only to meet consumer choice but also to increase our Belhaven production." Belhaven has been running at only a quarter of its 100,000 barrels a year capacity.

For Brent Walker, which paid the Barclay brothers £25 million in December for East Anglian Tolemache & Cobbold Breweries, the deal brings another chunk of cash to trim group borrowings. It has realized more than £20 million by selling 100 of the former GrandMet public houses.

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AWARDS TO TRUSTHOUSE FORTÉ HOTELS WORLDWIDE INCLUDED THE RITZ IN MADRID BEING NAMED THE BEST RESTAURANT AND BEST LUXURY HOTEL IN SPAIN; RACECOURSE OF THE YEAR, SANDOWN CATERED BY RING & BRYMER; BEST HOTEL GROUP IN BRITAIN BY EXPOTEL.

£109m

CATERER & HOTEL-KEEPER HOTEL OF THE YEAR, GROSVENOR HOUSE, LONDON; KLM IN-FLIGHT CATERING AWARD, TRUSTHOUSE FORTÉ AIRPORT SERVICES; BEST CUPPA AT BRITISH AIRPORTS, TRUSTHOUSE FORTÉ (WITH SEVEN PLACES IN TOP TEN); VOTED BEST HOTEL COMPANY BY READERS OF TRAVEL NEWS... AND MANY OTHER BY ACCOLADES.

£130m

QUEEN'S AWARD FOR EXPORT ACHIEVEMENT, THE PLC; THE TIMES RESTAURANT OF THE YEAR, 90 PARK LANE, LONDON; EURO-STRUCTPRESS ARCHITECTURAL AWARD NATIONAL WINNER, MAIDSTONE; SEVENOAKS POST HOUSE HOTEL; BEST GROUP AWARDS FROM TRAVEL TRADE GAZETTE, TRAVEL NEWS AND EXECUTIVE TRAVEL WITH GEORGE V IN PARIS BEING NAMED AS BEST HOTEL IN EUROPE BY EXECUTIVE TRAVEL.

£136m

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£180m

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1983 1984 1985 1986 1987 1988

Results

Year to 31st October, 1988

	1988	1987	% INCREASE	% COMPOUND GROWTH P.A. OVER 5 YEARS
Sales	£2,044	1,778	15	16
Profit before tax	232	180	29	23
Earnings per share (net)	22.0p	16.3p	35	22
Dividends per share	8.4p	7.1p	18	15
Net assets per share	£2.87	£2.02	42	28



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British Gas criticized over outline of new price system

By Colin Narkborough

Mr James McKinnon, Director General of Gas Supply, last night expressed disappointment over the outline of the new pricing structure for industrial users announced by British Gas.

He said the information given yesterday should have been sufficient to enable consumers to comment on the changes, but this had not been the case where key price bands were concerned. In the absence of such information, Mr McKinnon proposed there should be about 10 bands.

In outlining the new system, due to come into force on April 1, British Gas gave no indication of the actual price

changes it will bring. The new prices should be announced early next month with details of the pricing bands the company is being obliged to publish in line with recommendations of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

The MMC last year found that British Gas was abusing its monopoly position and called for changes intended to ensure fair treatment of big industrial users and more openness on pricing.

In a letter to 20,000 industrial users, British Gas yesterday said the MMC accepted that the change would lead to price increases for some cus-

tomers. The company regretted this, but was unable for the moment to say how individual contracts will be affected.

It said it will no longer be able to negotiate prices with individual contract customers. Terms and prices will be applied through a number of officially published schedules.

The interim information in the letter described the format of the schedules, the types of contract, the flexibility of terms offered and some likely effects of the changes. Under the new system customers will choose the pricing class they want from the published schedules. They will also be able to choose from an adjust-

able price escalation formula or fixed price contracts.

A firm supply of gas will be available to any customer, to be supplied without interruption, ending discrimination between different types of user. Customers using more than 250,000 therms a year per premise will, however, be able to opt for interruptible supplies at a price advantage.

Contracts, which have been mostly for one year, will be offered for one or two years. Prices will reflect the volume band into which the annual load falls. Some customers will gain a price advantage from single contracts covering all their premises.

BSA to vote on Abbey as member

By Vivier Goldsmith, Family Money Editor

The Building Societies Association will vote today on whether to allow the Abbey National to remain a member if it discards its building society status.

The 24-man BSA council, which includes Mr Peter Birch, chief executive of the Abbey, is under pressure to make a decision on allowing the bank-building societies into the fold because this is a change of rules which has to be voted on at an annual general meeting. The BSA's next annual meeting is in Guernsey in early May, and it will be the only opportunity to push the change through before the Abbey's planned flotation.

The BSA has 110 members. The largest five contribute one-third of its income and the Abbey alone 9 per cent — or nearly £215,000. The fragmentation of the mortgage lending market has already led the association to investigate whether an association of mortgage lenders, open to banks and new-style lenders such as the Mortgage Corporation, should be run alongside the BSA. A working party has been looking at this since the summer.

The relationship between the BSA and the Abbey has not always been harmonious — it was the Abbey which broke the mortgage cartel. But the Abbey is relaxed about the outcome of the vote, believing that in the long run, the BSA must widen its scope to represent all mortgage lenders.

Building societies now account for about 65 per cent of mortgage lending, the clearing banks about 20 per cent and new lenders about 10 per cent.

COMMENT Flotation is heading into deeper water

The dispute over the statutory water companies steep projected price rises for 1989-90 has done nothing to help the already doubtful prospects for privatization of the 10 water authorities. There has, until now, been enough confusion over the links between water price inflation and privatization to fudge the issue. Prices would, in any case, have had to rise ahead of inflation to pay for investment in water and river quality.

But a once-for-all price adjustment by the statutory companies would be a direct consequence of the legislation. There is a political alternative. A special element could be injected into the price regime for the companies to spread the pain over 10 years.

Most of the damage has now been done, however, not least because the Water Companies Association has taken its chances to air its view that the traditional dividend control formula was better for the consumer. There is a certain justice in the companies being such a source of embarrassment, first through the unpopular French invasion. For they were neglected and forgotten in the pathetically inadequate thinking that has gone into the Department of the Environment's prologued water privatization plan.

The result, however, is that the Bill is now widely unpopular. This has bad implications for the planned November flotation. The Government has the strongest political incentive to impose a

harsh regime on the authorities, in terms of future prices, standards of service and penalties for lapses.

It is going to be hard to combine this with selling the shares to millions of co-owners. Profit growth in the core businesses will look poor, especially if shareholders are to receive little benefit from debt-financed investment. Any excitement would therefore have to come from new activities, which will take years to make much impact, or from the beneficial effects of high inflation on groups with hefty fixed or financial costs — hardly a usable selling point.

Fortunately, there will be a gap between the political rows and the flotation, even if that is not put back from November. It will still be difficult to paint a completely different, though generally more truthful picture of water authorities as a slim, efficient process industry.

The shares will have to be sold as a cheap income stock. To achieve that as well as providing some good publicity over water prices, the Government has a strong incentive to write off most of the industry's debt rather than simply shifting it around.

That was certainly not the intention. Indeed, water is an industry that ought to be able to carry high debt without undue risk, as the statutory water companies have long demonstrated. But, in this privatization, nothing has so far gone to plan.

Withholding judgement

The City's attitude to the Community-wide withholding tax proposals unveiled in Brussels yesterday was that there is no point in getting excited until the Commission's suggestion of a 15 per cent tax on investment income has been through the negotiating mangle.

This view has something to be said in its favour. Both Britain and Luxembourg have made it clear that they will not countenance the introduction of the tax in its present form. The Chancellor objects in principle to the idea that a sop has to be provided to the French in the form of a new Europe-wide tax, in return for the removal of remaining capital controls in the Community.

The proposals that have emerged from the Commission are, in any case, far from completely baked. The tax has at its basis the prevention of tax evasion in a new, control-free Europe. But it is hard to see how the application of the tax to the wholesale money markets (Eurobonds are excluded) furthers this aim.

Economic Secretary Peter Lilley will be taking Britain's objections to Brussels early next week. It may be that, after all the huff and puff, Britain will settle for the new tax, although ideally at a lower rate, as long as the list of

exemptions is the same as those which apply to composite rate tax. Luxembourg's objections, and the likely loss of her tax haven status if the proposal goes through, may be harder to buy off.

Even so, the proposal underlines one of the difficulties of European integration, of which there will be many more. A fiscal, regulatory and supervisory environment which satisfies all member countries will, in most cases, look like a lowest common denominator designed by a committee.

To a Europe free of exchange controls, it is desirable that, ultimately, the same tax environment applies to investment income throughout the Community. But if the tax environment is too harsh, investment is driven offshore.

The Treasury takes the view on this, and on VAT, that any such harmonization will come about gradually, as a result of competitive pressures, and cannot be imposed at the outset. But the French Ministry of Finance, clearly concerned that if the tax is not imposed at the outset, there will be nothing left to tax, has other ideas. And the eventual outcome, like the Commission's proposal yesterday, may be a soggy and unworkable compromise.

Leading Leisure doubles to £5m

By Martin Waller

A strong performance from property development activities helped lift pre-tax profits at Leading Leisure, the public house, betting shops and casinos group chaired by Mr Barry Malizia, from £2.40 million to £5.15 million in the year to end-October.

There is a final 1.5p dividend making a 2p total, an increase of 50 per cent. The company, quoted on the Third Market, had planned a full listing in the last half of 1988, but delayed for a year because of market conditions and two planning appeals. Mr Malizia, however, was confident a new target date would be met.

The construction and property side, which includes a substantial amount of land under development on the Isle of Wight and the nearby mainland, raised operating profits 170 per cent to £7.73 million. The leisure division increased 124 per cent to £2.72 million.

The third division — security — slipped into a £1.73 million loss, because of poor quality control, but the business would shortly be sold, said Mr Malizia. It was bought two years ago, bringing with it property assets, since developed. "I don't think we will suffer any significant drop on book values, which are £1.5 million."



Crusading spirit: Mr Malizia at his Winchester theme centre yesterday

Debts of £10m for failed Hall Russell

By Our City Staff

Aberdeen shipbuilder Hall Russell, the last shipbuilding facility on the Scottish east coast, has crashed with debts of £10 million, it was revealed yesterday.

The yard, which employs 435 people, went into receivership last November, after experiencing difficulties in the contracting shipbuilding market.

Of the debt, £5 million was owed to secured trade creditors, £3 million was for contingent liabilities that had

Goldman tops takeover advice league

By Our City Staff

Goldman Sachs, the New York securities house, was ahead of all other banks in Britain and the US as an adviser on mergers and acquisitions last year, according to the latest rankings by Eitel Financial/IDB.

Its participation in only 12 deals in Britain, worth £8.3 billion, put Goldman top for the value of its deals. J Henry Schroder Wagg, the merchant bank, was second with 60 deals worth £3.2 billion. County NatWest, merchant banking arm of National Westminster, was third with 59 deals worth £5.3 billion.

Profits slump at Union Discount

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

Union Discount, London's largest discount house, suffered a 70 per cent drop in its disclosed profits for 1988 as repeated rises in interest rates damaged its performance.

Profits plunged from £11 million to £3.4 million in one of the worst years for the discount market in a long time. Mr Graeme Gilchrist, the managing director, said that Union had been expecting rates to rise early in 1988 — and was caught out by a sudden fall in March. He added: "The conduct of monetary policy in 1988 was erratic."

Bush approves Monsanto sale

From Bailey Morris, Washington

President George Bush has taken his first important decision regarding the sale of US companies on national security grounds and has allowed Monsanto to sell its semiconductor subsidiary to a West German company.

The decision has been watched on both sides of the Atlantic for signs of the Administration's policy on foreign acquisitions of key US companies.

White House officials said that Mr Bush decided to ac-

cept the recommendations of a government panel and allow the sale to go forward in spite of the strong protest of the US Commerce and Defense departments that it would endanger national security.

Monsanto is the sole US producer of 80-inch silicon wafers which are vital to the production of advanced semiconductors. It plans to sell this unit, Monsanto Electronics Materials Company of Palo Alto, California, to Heuls, a subsidiary of the West German Veba chemical group.

Under US trade law passed last year, President Bush has the power to block foreign acquisitions of US companies if they are seen as endangering the national security.

A high level panel, chaired by the US Treasury, reviewed the takeover request and concluded that there was no evidence that the West German firm would take actions that would impair security.

In addition, the Treasury-led panel, which also included members of the Council of Economic Advisers and the Office of Management and Budget, sought and received assurances from the chairman of Heuls that there would be no disruptions in supplies.

White House officials said that Mr Bush is opposed to tough restrictions on foreign investment and intends to work to lift such restrictions against US investment abroad. This was the primary reason for allowing the Monsanto sale to proceed.

Victor victorious

Legendary drinks guru Victor MacColl is back. MacColl, who left Kleinwort Greaveson in November, has, I can reveal, landed a job as a director of Marshall & Co, an institutional agency broker and corporate finance house based in Southampton Place, Holborn, MacColl, one of the most popular characters in the City, is due to start in 10 days and will, of course, specialize as an analyst-cum-salesman in the leisure sector — which includes the breweries. Marshall was launched a little over two years ago as a wholly owned subsidiary of Lombard, Odier & Co, a leading private Swiss bank. Although Marshall is not a well-known name within the Square Mile, it has an enviable client list. Its research and corporate finance business is concentrated in those sectors it regards as most active — leisure, property, investment trusts and financial services. Towards the end of last year it recruited rugby-playing Tooy Sharp from Phillips & Drew as a senior dealing director.

Companies delay their results and acquisitions for all sorts of complicated reasons, but not so in the case of Bonstead, which yesterday revealed that it was buying component group Elmec for £1.5 million. The ink was dry on the deal on Monday, but the announcement was held up because the Far Eastern markets were closed for the Chinese New Year. Bonstead owns two-thirds of Singapore-quoted Bonsteadco.

and will be responsible for UK and European equity sales. Holmes replaces David Nescon, who tells me that he will be working alongside him for between three and six months before launching a "new business initiative" for the firm.



Looks like another post-crash high

Carol Leonard

Changing gear for a little Little

Nigel Little, regarded even by his rivals as one of the best equity salesmen in the City, is to become a director of Panmure Gordon with effect from Monday. A month ago Little, aged 34, abruptly left the American securities house Morgan Stanley — where he had been head of the UK equity desk — after a difference of management opinion about the direction of future expansion. At Panmure, which is owned, at arm's length, by the North Carolina National Bank, he will join a 30-strong sales team. Little established his reputation in his 10 years with James Capel, and joined Morgan Stanley just 15 months ago. "Panmure is an established name, run more like a partnership, and what I want now is a happy working environment and stability," Little tells me. Among the top producers in the Square Mile, his salary package at Morgan Stanley matched his ability — his car allowance there was so generous that it enabled him to run both a Porsche and a BMW. "But my Porsche-driving days are over," he says. The father of a 15-month-old daughter, he adds: "I'm moving towards middle age and need something much more solid." Panmure will, he thinks, be very relieved.

New faces

Panmure Gordon also says it is looking to expand its institutional equity sales, re-

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

No gain without pain

Staff at Union Discount should not be taken in by the general demeanor of Graeme Gilchrist, the managing director. Voicing his fears that the Chancellor might be tempted to reduce interest rates too hastily, Gilchrist — speaking as the company unravelled its results yesterday — drew several analogies with his own employees. "If I get fed up with my staff there's no point continually beating them once

search and corporate finance divisions still further. To these various ends it has recruited more than 30 newcomers in the past couple of months. Among them are analysts Trissan McCarthy, from Smith New Court, who specialized in electronics and telecoms, and Roddy McKelvie, who covered the brewing sector for Fielding Newson Smith.

Holmes signs

John Holmes, the man who helped create the now largely dismantled Morgan Grenfell Securities and became its chief executive, has, after weeks of negotiations with a number of firms, signed a contract with Morgan Stanley. He starts next month after a two-centre holiday in Florida and then skiing at his ranch in the Rockies. He has been made a managing director of Morgan Stanley — it has 20 in London

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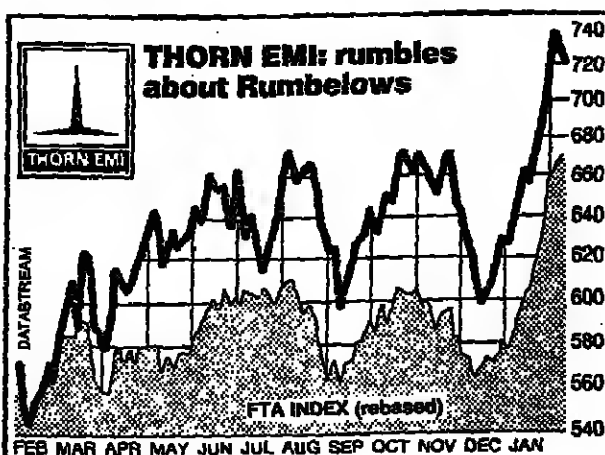
TIN/09/02

By Vivien Goldsmith, Family Money Editor

"In football terms the referee knows what the rules are, the players subscribe to those rules and he makes the players stick to the rules. He does not make sure that the best man wins. That is why a referee is different from an ombudsman who will say who should win."

He will consider each case

STOCK MARKETS



Once again, there were good gains for most blue chips. Glaxo rose 18p to £12.87. Beecham, 13p to 585p. BOC, 23p to 514p and Ladbroke, 16p to 530p.

The privatization issues saw British Gas firm by 2p to 184½p. British Telecom, 1p to 281p. Jaguar, 5p to 327p. Associated British Ports, 11p to 527p and BAA, 8p to 319p.

An impressive performance by the pound helped government securities which closed

Warburg believes that Rumbelows has concentrated on a sales mix which contains a high service content — which produces heavier overheads. Last year, Rumbelows managed to achieve a break-even situation and it is unlikely to do much better this time. But the rest of Thorn is firing on all cylinders. Warburg remains "fairly positive" about prospects for the group and says that it is urging its clients to add to their holdings.

Cowie continues to hold a 7.25 per cent stake in Lookers, a Manchester vehicle distributor.

Blue Arrow, the troubled employment agency which owns Manpower and the Brooke Street Bureau, re-

Kleinwort Benson, the broker, is now finalizing an important study on the hidden worth of film libraries, which is likely to generate further interest in the sector.

The big four clearing banks sported some impressive gains with investors looking forward to the reporting season which gets underway this month.

Michael Clark

32,065.12 — the fourth consecutive record close — after change was closed for a holiday.

[illegible]

Tees walkway and weir - providing pleasant access to a tide-free river frontage

'We are setting out once again to be ahead of our time...'

Japanese ready to act on currency

Tokyo (Reuters) — The Bank of Japan is ready to co-operate with other countries in countering excessive currency moves, including using concerted intervention, Mr. Satoshi Sumita, the governor said.

However, he said that recent currency moves have not been excessive. The Group of Seven is more concerned with ensuring currency stability than with achieving set ranges for exchange rates, he added.

The governor also said he saw no need to change monetary policy now. But he added that Japan is ready to act promptly against inflation if necessary. Mr. Sumita said other G7 countries did not ask Japan at last week's meeting in Washington to refrain from changing its monetary stance.

The G7 nations showed no signs at the meeting of being poised for a round of competitive interest rate increases, he added. G7 countries shared general concern about inflation, but they believed measures they had taken so far were effective.

The group agreed the US economy remains strong, but that its growth rate is not expected to accelerate further.

The recent round of European interest rate rises and slight tightening of US monetary policy were appropriate and timely, Mr. Sumita said.

He said that Japan was not asked by other G7 members to keep its interest rates at the lowest among the group.

There were greater expectations for lower Japanese interest rates when Japan's economic growth was not so clear as it is now, he said.

President's optimism over growth contrasts with central bank caution

Bush heads for clash with Fed



Softly, softly: Alan Greenspan, Fed chairman, has a warning for George Bush over inflation

The policy committee of the United States Federal Reserve Board completed a two-day private meeting yesterday to set monetary policy for 1989. Today, in an address a joint session of Congress, President George Bush will outline his own economic blueprint for America.

Financial markets have expressed growing concern that the central bank's determination to fight inflation may collide with the Bush administration's primary assumption that strong economic growth will produce enough tax revenues in the 1990 fiscal year to substantially decrease the \$150 billion (£86 billion) federal budget deficit.

Indeed, there is concern that the Fed's apparent intention to hold US growth to no more than 2.5 per cent in fiscal 1990 represents a fundamental policy difference with the Bush administration, which wants much higher growth to allow the President to avoid a tax increase.

Mr. Bush is expected to embrace optimistic economic assumptions in the 1990 budget programme he will present to Congress. These will project growth of 3.5 per cent, inflation of 4.5 per cent to 4.7 per cent, and short-term interest rates slightly lower than those indicated by current Fed policy.

With growth at this level, and with selective freezes in federal programmes, Mr. Bush hopes to lower the budget deficit to the legal target of \$100 billion in 1990 without raising taxes, White House officials said.

But Mr. Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve,

has indicated that growth of this magnitude is highly unlikely. He said in Congressional testimony last week that he was inclined to accept the economic projections of the independent Congressional Budget Office for growth of 2.9 per cent in fiscal 1990.

In addition, Mr. Greenspan gave a warning that it was wrong to assume that the Fed was comfortable with the current inflation rate — more than 4.5 per cent, and growing.

Mr. Greenspan said short-term interest rates were likely to go higher because of the central bank's determination to "err on the side of caution" in fighting growing inflationary pressures in key segments of the economy, notably the wage-price sector.

There was widespread anticipation on Wall Street this week of another move by the

Fed to tighten credit conditions following the stronger-than-expected US employment gains announced last Friday.

The government reported that the growth in new jobs, excluding the farm sector, was of \$9.75 billion in new three-year notes — to gauge future direction.

Last week, the rates on the Treasury's three-month and six-month bills rose to their highest levels for four years. There was anticipation that the Fed would move again to push up short-term rates through an increase in the overnight federal funds rate.

The Fed's longer-term plans are not made public. But Mr. Greenspan will give a review of the Fed's policy soon, in a report to Congress on US monetary policy.

Mr. Bush has moved quickly to remove one of the darkest clouds hanging over his deficit reduction programme, the \$100 billion crisis in the US savings and loan industry. White House officials said the president was anxious to reassure depositors who were beginning to withdraw their

money from the 350 bankrupt associations which will have to be bailed out.

But industry experts expressed doubts yesterday over whether the \$50 billion programme announced by Mr. Bush, which would be in addition to the \$40 billion already committed by the government, would be sufficient to cover the entire cost.

They said that politically the plan was sound, but that financially it appeared to fall short of the money required to complete the rescue. A new private study has concluded that the cost of the bailout will be at least \$126 billion over the next decade, 40 per cent more than the administration has projected.

Generally, however, Mr. Bush's budget plan is expected to include no new taxes, a "flexible freeze" on domestic programmes to reduce outlays, and a larger cut in defence spending. It was also expected to embrace some modest revenue proposals included in President Reagan's last budget, in addition to user fees for a large number of government services.

The big initiatives that Mr. Bush is expected to propose are a reduction in US capital gains tax, and tax incentives to pay for child care programmes, housing, and other social programmes.

In addition, Mr. Bush plans to ask Congress to cancel some existing Federal programmes in order to pay for increased funding for drug enforcement and prevention programmes and for greater protection of the environment.

Bailey Morris

British Steel raises stake in TWIL

By Colin Narborough

British Steel and Bekaert, the Belgium steel cord and wire maker, have agreed to pay £25.5 million cash for Bridon's 40 per cent stake in TWIL, a jointly held company.

The restructuring will leave BS with 40 per cent of the Sheffield company, against its present 20 per cent. Bekaert, which will be bringing a Belgian-based subsidiary into TWIL, will hold 60 per cent.

Under the deal with Bekaert, Bridon, the British engineering group, will acquire three TWIL subsidiaries — Fox Wire, Johnson & Nephew and Lionwell Kennedy — together worth an estimated £20 million.

While the newly-privatised BS is keen to develop TWIL, Bridon has made it clear that it did not regard its interest in TWIL as a core business. TWIL's pre-tax profit in 1987 was £3.9 million.

Bridon's 40 per cent of TWIL carries voting rights of only 25 per cent, while

Bekaert's present 40 per cent holding has 50 per cent.

The deal is seen as a forerunner of the expansion into continental Europe that Sir Robert Scholey, the BS chairman, is keen to pursue.

The City has been expecting BS to make a move into West Germany, the biggest European steel consumer, after an invitation from Deutsche Bank to buy Klöckner & Co., the leading West German steel trading house, for about £210 million. But BS has denied

reports that it has already reached agreement to buy the Ruhr-based Klöckner.

BS said the company was still considering an offer from Deutsche.

BS's Llanwern plant in South Wales has set a European output record of 1 million tonnes of continuously cast steel in the 10 months since its new con-cast mill started production. Equivalent mills abroad have taken more than a year to reach such tonnages.

Sherwood plans merger with Dutch lace-maker

By Rodney Hobson

The Sherwood Group of Nottingham is planning a merger with Deotex Groep, a Dutch lace-maker, through a bid by the British textile group for Deotex. Sherwood is quoted on the Unlisted Securities Market while Deotex is listed on the Dutch second-tier market.

Sherwood, with six units and 2,500 employees, designs and makes lingerie, clothing and lace. Deotex is based in

Nieuw-Veene which is south-west of Amsterdam. It has factories in Britain, West Germany and France and produces lace which is sold worldwide.

In the year to September 30, it made after-tax profits of 2.5 million guilders (£600,000) on sales of 79.9 million guilders.

The companies said they would give further details of Sherwood's proposed bid in a few days.

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

Option	Strike	Call	Put	Option	Strike	Call	Put
Alm Lym	420 72 81	1 5	1 5	P & O	550 124 134	1 5	4 8
Alm Lym	480 37 55	8 15	10 10	Alm Lym	600 74 87	8 15	23 27
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TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

First Dealings February 8	Last Dealings February 17	Last Declaration May 16	For Settlement May 30
Call options were taken out on 8/2/88 Eagle Trust, Other Resources, London Finance & Capital Group, and United Assurance, and on 5/1/88 Eagle Trust, London Finance & Capital Group, United Assurance, Bechtel Group, Dorcas Estates, Tealisk Resources, Blackie Leisure, Foreignbook, Exploration Company of Louisiana, Magney, Jaguar, Amber Day, Control Securities, FKJ, Amstrad, Next.			
Page: Eurobond Units & Wts.		Put & Call: Rascal Telecom.	

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Previous open interest	32875
99-11	90-21
99-15	99-03
208	0
Previous open interest	696
108.95	108.45
108.45	108.45
316	
Previous open interest	50183
94-20	94-50
17017	414
50-12250	17994

EXCHANGE		day	Rollad Wolf	
	month	Vol		Time
0-1774.0	485260	Firmer		
00-387.00	35125	Slower		
0-1750.0	70500	Firmer		
00-527.00	22	Quiet		
00-527.00	NI	Quiet		
00-527.00	24950	Firmer		
50-18250	17994	Firmer		

LIVESTOCK COMMISSION		
Stock prices at representative participants on February 8		
Pig	Sheep	Cattle
79.30	132.25	107.43
-1.79	-8.20	-1.90
+3.4	+13.6	+4.8
79.29	132.84	108.06
-1.73	-9.77	-1.83
n/a	-5.0	+17.0
n/a	126.87	-7.46
n/a	104.68	-2.04

and dead carcass weight

CONFERENCES
& EXHIBITIONS

FOCUS

Punching home the message

As Britain gears itself up for 1992, the big money is going into refurbishing centres and raising standards. Irene Farnsworth looks at five aspects of the market

Organizers of conferences and exhibitions are having to raise their standards to meet higher expectations of both venues and events, while substantial investment has been made during the past 10 years in new buildings and refurbishment of existing centres.

In Birmingham, the custom-built £121 million International Convention Centre, now being built and scheduled to open in April 1991, is said to be a catalyst for spending. Investment in the city and its surrounds by the public and private sector is estimated to be £2 billion. This includes a £41 million expansion programme for the halls at the National Exhibition Centre, adding 20,000 square metres of exhibition space.

Edinburgh's new conference centre, on which work is scheduled to start in October, will cost about £25 million. It is part of a £180 million-£200 million redevelopment scheme on a seven-acre site, to include a financial centre with office accommodation. In London, Earls Court Olympia has ploughed £35 million into refurbishing both halls, and Earls Court 2 is being built at a cost of £65 million. Blackpool's Winter Gardens com-

plex has undergone a £4 million restoration, officially unveiled last month.

Universities, buoyed by their success in the conference market, are upgrading rooms and building new student accommodation blocks, putting in *en suite* facilities with conference business in mind. Country house hotels hosting conferences – a growth market – have been modernized and expensively furnished. Stately homes are gearing themselves to conferences, some with overnight accommodation.

“Those wanting conference business realize they have got to produce what an increasingly fussy clientele want in order to sell it,” says Amy Bishop, business travel manager of the English Tourist Board (ETB). Despite the continuing growth of new venues, she says there did not appear to be any fear yet of reaching saturation point.

Chris Edwards, business manager of the purpose-built Queen Elizabeth II conference centre, Westminster, opened in 1986, reports a trend towards more businesslike events demanding harder work and more participation. Meetings are shorter, with shorter breaks. Conferences,



Making a professional stand for the future: David Fasken (above), and Amy Bishop (right) with Maddy Keap

he says, are becoming more sophisticated. The lecturer, with his overhead projector, is becoming obsolete and even modest internal company meetings are using professional production companies, with hi-tech audio-visual and video presentations and elaborate stage sets to sustain interest and punch home the message.

Paul Swan, managing director of Spectrum Communications, a leading conference production house, says the increasing importance attached by British industry to quality, and particularly to quality of service as a marketing weapon, is having a significant influence on the conference industry.

Traditionally, many UK companies have held their conferences overseas, not only because of competitive rates but also because of the more exciting and pleasant environment. Now, says David Hackett, chairman of the

Travel Organization, the UK market leader in conference and incentive group travel, a number of factors are influencing companies to hold at least some of their events within Britain.

Two years ago the Travel Organization's associated company, Creative Event Management, was asked to devise off-beat activities to give more impact to meetings and leisure pursuits.

Picking a speciality was already big business in the United States and an increasing number of British clients were requesting banquets with themes and entertainment.

In the exhibition world the showman organizer is being replaced by more professional operators. “Everybody is being more businesslike. Expectations now are more for an exhibition to be a cost-effective method of marketing goods and services,” says David Fasken, managing director of Earls Court and Olympia Ltd, part of the Trafalgar House group, who today becomes chairman of the Exhibition Industries Federation, formed last year.

The enormous uplift in exhibition and conference facilities in Britain has been justified, he says, by growth of business. Although constraints on space, in London particularly, is dictating the size of new venues, there are only six shows meriting the size of Continental-style exhibition centres, Fasken says.

Reg Best, assistant director of the Incorporated Society of British Advertisers (ISBA) gives the credit for setting a new standard in the UK. “It was the salvation of the exhibition industry which was in decline in the 1970s,” he says.

But rising costs and an ever-widening exhibition calendar, producing too many events of a similar nature, are forcing

companies to look more closely at the return they are getting on exhibitions, he says. In an otherwise buoyant industry there is concern about dwindling attendance at some exhibitions, especially as stand rents and stand erection charges are rising rapidly.

The problem is that there are too many exhibitions that are too much alike,” Best says. “And when companies compare what they paid last time in exhibition charges with what they are now being asked, the cost is double the rate of inflation.”

Faced with the choice of spreading themselves thinly, exhibitors are opting for specialized shows and some big companies are staging events devoted exclusively to their products. Sue Maddix, marketing director of Benheim Online, which specializes in organizing conferences and exhibitions in the hi-tech sector, says that more thought needs to be given to the form which exhibitions should take, now that marketing departments were reviewing their exhibition policy.

Referring to the proliferation of exhibitions connected with computers, she says: “The days of unbridled enthusiasm for everything and anything computerized are gone. Users are still keen to see the market but are turning increasingly to specialist, targeted exhibitions. The path the visitor, the ultimate decision-maker, is dictating is one of specialization and relevance.”

Stronger links are being forged between the conference and exhibition industries, with a trend towards exhibition-led conferences. This applies to both corporate and association meetings. It is often a way of earning the revenue to pay for the conferences.

Both industries are expecting greater activity on both sides of the Channel with the opening of the tunnel and the prospect of the single European market. “The spirit of 1992 is in the air,” says Maddy Keap, business travel executive at the British Tourist Authority.

OUTLOOK

Growing show of strength

A record £320 million was spent by British companies on trade, technical and consumer exhibitions at the last count, showing growth for the industry in both expenditure and the number of events.

In analysing the exhibition industry's 1987 performance, the Incorporated Society of British Advertisers (ISBA) took into account 21 halls featuring in its annual survey for the first time. The survey, which measures and estimates only expenditure by British companies, attributed much of the industry's increased activity to the growth of exhibitions in regional facilities. Of the 510 exhibitions held, 28 more than in 1986 – 573 took place in the regions.

ISBA findings and other research done for the Exhibition Industries Federation, representing organizers, venue owners and contractors, have been incorporated in reports which will be on sale at the EIF stand at International Centre 89 at Olympia, opening today.

A special 1992 project covered in the research document explores the potential of the single European market. The consensus is that business on both sides will boom.

The exhibition services sector, probably the fastest-growing sector of the exhibition industry, will be much in evidence at International Centre. Audio-visual equipment, stand designers, modular display furniture and laser displays will be featured.

The Greater Manchester Conference Office, funded by Manchester City Council and eight district councils, has a stand to promote the developments in the 500 square miles it represents. Last year conferences and exhibitions in Greater Manchester brought in at least £4 million in revenue. Now there are plans to refurbish the Free Trade Hall as a conference centre and create a new home for the Hallé Orchestra.

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Subtle lure of the off-beat

Pulling something out of the hat is the challenge for conference organizers. If you are to take people away from home, especially at the weekend, the venue and the entertainment have to be superb. Coping with conference delegates after the agenda sessions have ended calls for ingenuity. It is easier, perhaps, to find some exotic foreign location to take them to, but trying to attract them less than 100 miles from their homes – a research shows that people prefer conferences within hailing distance of their base –

Organizers need imagination to keep conference delegates amused

calls for something off-beat. The answer can be themed events, an embellishment of the usual gala dinner at the close of a conference. A tried and tested recipe by Creative Event Management, formed by the Travel Organization to bring more zest to conferences close to home, is to lay on a “horror” evening. Guests are provided with fancy dress, special cocktails, macabre

lighting, horror movie music and special menus. It is said to bring the house down.

For daytime leisure, to break down inhibitions and inculcate team spirit, competitions are in demand. At one get-together of a company with several subsidiaries in Europe, a raft-building competition was organized. Materials were made by the participants and it gave them the chance of showing off how versatile they were.

A four-day conference in Aviemore culminated in a treasure hunt in cars. The “treasure” was a distillery, where drinks were followed by dinner.

Conference hotels lay on riding, clay pigeon shooting and even hot air ballooning – the latter an option at Luck-

now Park, Colerne, near Bath. Swimming pools, gymnasiums and jogging tracks have become features at many conference hotels.

For those who like everything laid on, the staff at Belvoir Castle in Lincolnshire will charter a private plane or helicopter to Goodwood in Sussex for a day at the races. Stately homes such as Hagley Hall in Worcestershire have devised dinner games and plays in the library and also organized musical evenings.

At Gleneagles in Scotland the “Fitness” Weekend, with Sebastian Coe, a Fine Claret and Port Weekend with Jancis Robinson, or an Equestrian Weekend with Captain Mark Phillips, have been created for the special interest market.

The quality of British hotels and conference venues has improved greatly in recent years and they are no longer poor value in terms of accommodation, food and entertainment.

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A SMALL SPACE
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ABOUT A BIG ONE

We don't want to make a big show of it, but Halls 6, 7 and 8 at the NEC are now open for business.

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For example, a 24-hour conference package, in a Guaranteed Venue Scheme hotel can cost as little as £45.00 per head, inclusive of full board, conference room hire and refreshments.

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Send for details, and our new video, to: Conference Director, Jersey Conference Bureau, Weighbridge, St. Helier, Jersey, CI. 0534 780000.

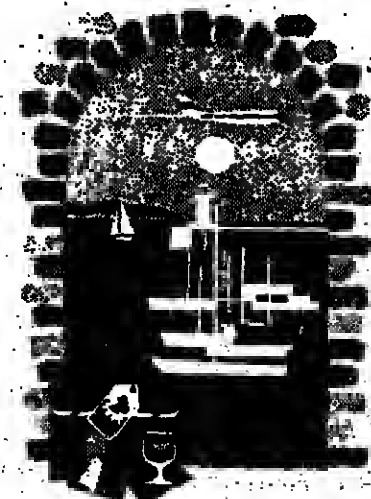
See what
Alan Whicker
thinks about
Jersey

A new nine minute video,
“Jersey the
Conference Connection”

Jersey

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Conference in Guernsey?



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A wonderful setting, for instance, quite different from the UK mainland yet only a matter of minutes away by air. A language that's familiar and VAT-free prices that aren't. Interesting shops and a gourmet's paradise of restaurants. Coastal, countryside, even small islands, that you can explore in a few brief hours.

Guernsey is everything a conference venue needs: welcoming, efficient, and above all different. From about £200 for 2 nights including flights from London.

To: Michael Poul, Senior Marketing Manager, Dept. 17, Guernsey Tourist Board, PO Box 23, White Rock, Guernsey, G.Y. Tel: 0481 20011 Fax: 0481 21046

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Telephone _____

MEMBER

HALLS 6,7+8 = 20,000 sq. metres OF NEW SPACE

100 metres

200 metres

FOCUS

CONFERENCES
& EXHIBITIONS

Build or rebuild?

The reputation of UK facilities is growing. But their owners realize improvements may be needed

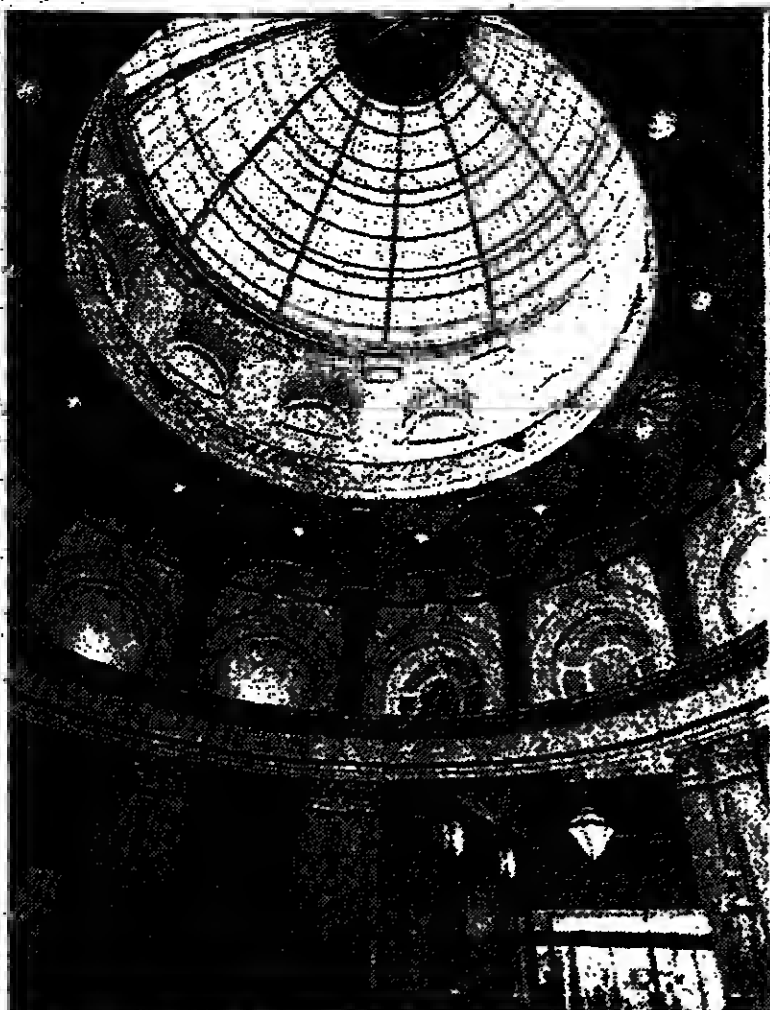
Owners of conference centres in the UK face a dilemma: whether to make the best of their facilities or to build entirely new ones. The British Association of Conference Towns (BACT) is mulling over the question so it can give guidance to its members, which include local authorities and private business. The answer may be for neighbouring towns to pool resources to provide one high-grade conference centre.

No one has any illusions that they can win a bigger slice of the growing business without installing first-class facilities.

Scarborough, one of the 91 members of BACT, is looking at how to reshape its facilities and marketing. Birmingham, boosted by the £2 million a year profit success of the National Exhibition Centre, is building a meticulously researched conference centre. Rising from the ashes of a burned-down 19th-century exhibition hall in the heart of the city is the £121 million International Conference Centre (ICC).

Construction work on the 11-hall centre catering for 30-3,000 delegates due to open in 1991 is more than half complete. The centre is funded by Birmingham council and a grant of £37 million from the EEC.

The ambitious aim is for the ICC to be the world's most advanced. As well as catering for every need of delegates,



Blackpool illumination: the restored crystal dome in the Winter Gardens

including the disabled, it will have a shopping mall open to the public. The concert hall, to be the Birmingham Symphony Orchestra's new home, will give elegant surroundings for a conference plenary session of up to

2,000 delegates. The ICC will, it is thought, generate new business rather than take trade from competitors. Edinburgh, already a popular conference venue—450 conferences were held in the city last year—has had a

site earmarked for the development of a custom-built conference centre for nearly 10 years. Now it can finance a £180 million to £200 million package, which includes such a centre.

Edinburgh council, which owns the land, an old railway goods yard, has joined with the Scottish Development Agency and the private sector to raise the cash for the project.

The £25 million conference centre will have a shopping arcade and other attractions for the public at large in Edinburgh, with a view to keeping the centre throbbing after dark.

Blackpool council has met half of the bill for the £4 million facelift of the Winter Gardens. Before work began on the Victorian complex, its owners, First Leisure, made an extensive survey of conference centres. Soundings were taken to pinpoint the needs of the market.

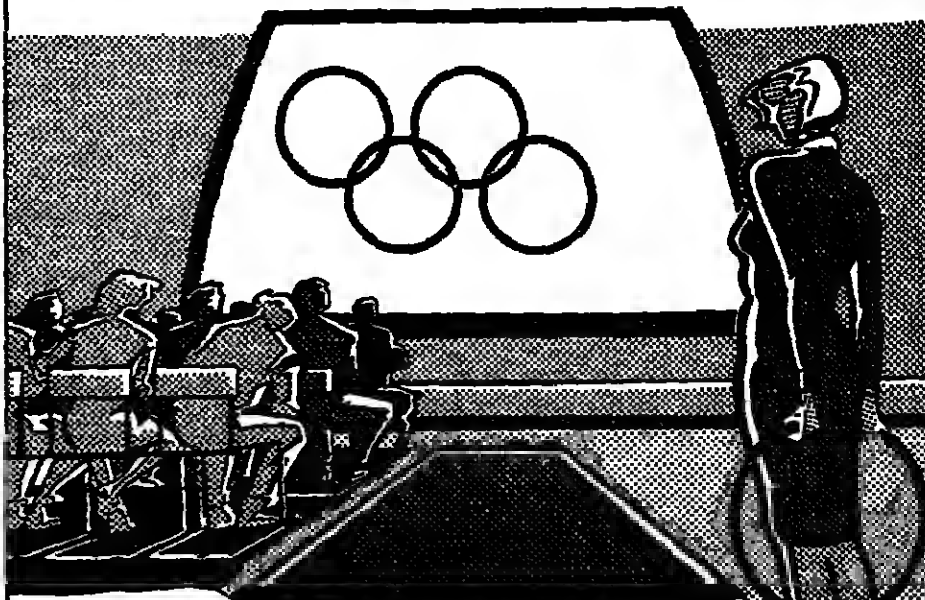
The restoration has turned out to be as much of an eye-opener for them as for anyone else. Hidden behind paint and panelling were treasures beyond their wildest dreams.

Tiles in the ballroom which had been painted over have been painstakingly restored, the removal of a suspended ceiling in the foyer revealed a superb crystal dome and paintings by an artist of repute dated in the 1870s were found behind panelling in shop units. Anthony Goldstone, chairman of the North West Tourist Board, says Blackpool now has a venue "to vie with anything in Europe, if not the world".

As in the US in the late 1970s, when convention centres sprang up everywhere, most areas of the UK now recognize that conference business can bring in valuable revenue.

The domestic market has been even more buoyant, reports the ETB. The annual British Tourism Survey 1987 estimates that 20 million trips were made to conferences and meetings in Britain.

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They are competing for people who are used to staying at luxury hotels, and so have to match in every way the standards set by five-star establishments. The plus they are able to offer is a touch of high society—it is possible to get a lord and lady to host a dinner in the elegant dining room of their home.

The use of country houses and stately homes has gained ground considerably, says Jan Curd, the managing director of Heritage Placements, a brokerage for about 120

Stately homes, universities and even livery halls are taking their place on the conference circuit

stately homes and country houses.

She had the brainwave for the latest marketing tool to attract bigger events. The 500-seat geodesic dome, bought by a consortium of stately home and country house owners on the Heritage Placements register, is also available for hire.

Rent is £16,000 a week and the consortium is optimistic that it will soon recoup its outlay because the dome has already been in demand by outside organizations. Curd

has another idea for overcoming the shortage of overnight accommodation at some of the properties on the register. Disused stables, coach houses and other outbuildings could be converted to provide bedrooms.

Some stately homes—for example, Knebworth House, in Hertfordshire—have overcome the overnight-stay problem by linking with a hotel.

Universities have also had success in the conference market by appealing to those

looking for something different. The drawback has been that delegates have had to sleep in basic student accommodation—but this is changing. With more competition and greater expectations, reflecting the higher standard of living, more universities are starting to upgrade their rooms.

Cash cuts to the universities have given them a new impetus to use the thousands of beds going spare for five months of the year when the students are away. And more universities are developing all-year-round accommodation.

"Universities are well placed for organizations wanting to vary annual conference from one part of the country to another," says Carole Formoo of the British Universities Accommodation Consortium (BUAC), a marketing association for 55 universities and university colleges. "A lot of organizations use universities for training purposes, and we see this as a growth area."

The University of Salford is an example of the aggressive attitude being taken by universities forced by cuts to find alternative income. It is spending almost £2 million on developments which include a new accommodation block with en suite facilities in a bid to go up-market.

Conference business at the University of Warwick has been so successful that it has recently built its second year-round en suite block. Charges are £17 a night bed and breakfast, and £50 a night full board.

Universities in the conference market have fought off their image of institutionalized food, and well-trained chefs love rising to the occasion. The universities are also able to offer full campus sports and library facilities.

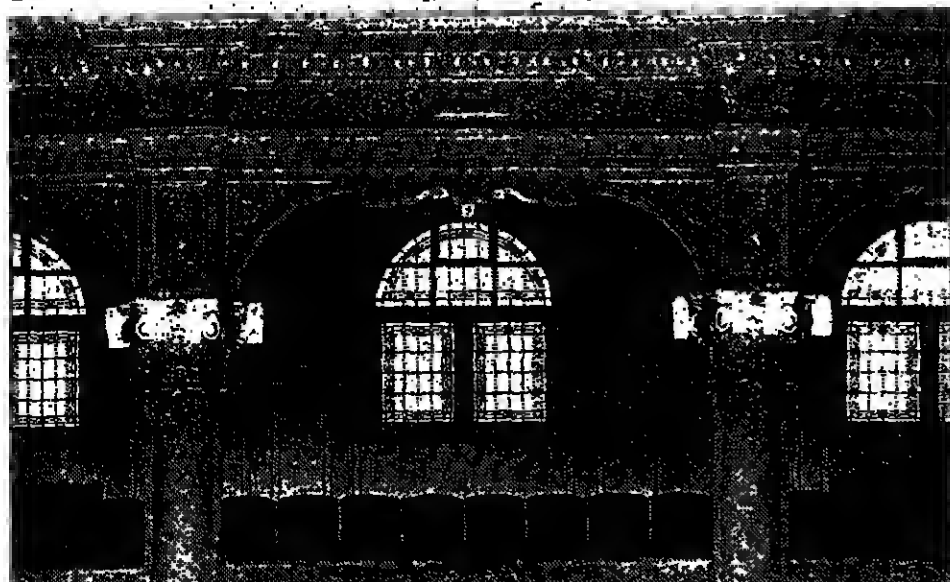
The latest incursion into the conference market are the City livery halls, which are catering for day-time conferences.

Heritage Placements, 8 Bathurst Street, Sussex Square, London, W22SD (01-386 3665). BUAC, Box 521, University Park, Nottingham, NG72RD (0602 504371).

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TECHNOLOGY

His master's voice

Listen very carefully... or why a clever new telephone system means that the boss now need say things only once. Ken Young reports



Getting the message across: Nigel Southern, head of BT's Voicemail, briefs his own sales team

Paul Livesey is director of information systems for the House of Fraser. Recently he changed his working habits and began to work on Sundays. He makes one telephone call and listens to weekly reports from his six line managers. After 15 minutes his work is finished.

Livesey and others like him are part of a growing number of enthusiastic users of Voicemail — a kind of corporate answerphone system.

Voicemail, sometimes known as voice messaging, is already widely used in the United States. According to market researchers BIS Mackintosh, there are more than 1.5 million users. It predicts that this will rise to 2.3 million by 1990 and more than 11 million by 1993.

BIS believes the British market, at around 24,000 users, is set to increase by 50 per cent this year, rising to 144,000 by 1993.

Voicemail is like electronic mail except all that is needed is a telephone instead of a computer terminal, and messages are listened to rather than read off a screen.

Every user gets an individual "voicebox" which holds messages for reception when the user calls the system with a special ID number. Messages can be "broadcast" to a number of users and can be sent on from one voicebox to another.

Messages can be sent or received at any time of day or night from anywhere in the world, although system users must have a tone keypad or be using a telephone that has tone dialling.

Service providers claim the benefits of Voicemail include the elimination of wasted time and money when trying unsuccessfully to contact someone, and the removal of needless small talk when contacting associates.

House of Fraser began using Voicemail two years ago. "We have a complex retail network and rely on daily reports," said Livesey, who first used Voicemail in the USA five years ago.

"At 6.30am, the network shift leader broadcasts a report to 20 people just by making one call. I can pick that up from my mailbox coming in to work using my cellphone."

Such reports are to ensure that all key people are constantly informed.

Voicemail systems can be run either in-house, or via a public service which is cheaper to use in the short term because no hardware or

software need be purchased. In Britain, both British Telecom and Mercury Communications run such services. They believe that Voicemail is set to grow rapidly and are

'We have a European and UK link — Japan will probably be next'

creating worldwide networks spanning Europe, North America and Japan.

British Telecom runs two separate services: a UK-only service called Voicebank, and an international network through a link with US-based Voicemail International.

Nigel Southern, BT's head of Voicemail, says customers will soon start to demand more. "We are looking at the adding extra facilities in the way that electronic mail services do. We have a European

and UK link — Japan will probably be next."

Southern says there are 20,000 users on each of its two services. BT's Voicebank service allows people automatically to be paged whenever a message arrives for them, an option taken up by 70 per cent of its users.

Mercury Communications has recently announced its international Voicemail service with direct links to Japan and the US. Unlike British Telecom it does not run two separate services.

But so far these services are still expensive. For a company wanting 100 mailboxes, the Mercury charge is £2,000 for registration, £1,000 for monthly rental and 15p per minute connected. The same company would pay £1,000 registration, add £1,133 monthly rental for BT's Voicemail. There is no connection charge on Voicebank. For BT Voicecomm International, the fees for a two-year contract are £1,300 registration and £1,800 monthly rental.

Mercury Voicemail user Dr John Martindale, head of marketing at Scottish Agri-

cultural Industries, says he selected the cheapest service: "We looked at both services and decided Mercury was cheaper; we also decided BT's limit of one minute per message was too limited."

Scottish Agricultural Industries is one of the UK's largest users of Voicemail. It has 160 users, each with their own voice boxes. For the company's salesmen it has meant a whole new way of working, not only are they in regular contact throughout the day but they also get broadcast messages on sensitive price fluctuations on agricultural stock. "It's a feature which puts us a step ahead of the competition," Dr Martindale says.

But not everyone takes to the idea of talking to an anonymous computer system. BT and Mercury agree that certain factors must be attended to if an installation is to succeed. For example, it must be accepted by top management and they must learn how to use it, and there must be a need for people to communicate. Mobile groups, like sales people are key targets.

If the Voicemail pundits are right, most business cards will have to find space for an additional row of digits in the space to come. Under the space taken by numbers for direct line, fax, carphone and pager link, that is.

NEW TECHNOLOGY

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Looking ahead to 1992 and all that

Finland's electronic giant is fighting for a piece of the action when the EEC becomes a single market

Like other Scandinavian companies, Finland's biggest industrial company, Nokia, has a wary eye on 1992 and the huge single market that will be created within the borders of the European Community.

The fear is that countries such as Finland, which are members of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), could be at a disadvantage if the EEC builds a trade fortress with penalties for outsiders wishing to trade.

EFTA, which consists of the Scandinavian countries along with Switzerland and Austria, has said it is to seek closer links with the Community, hoping it may give greater bargaining power for negotiations with the EEC.

While Scandinavian executives are often cynical about the short-term effects of 1992, believing it will not make much difference for several years, computer and other high technology companies,

see EEC plans for standardization in several areas of technology throughout the Community after 1992 as a potentially huge business opportunity.

Nokia Data, for example, the largest division of Finland's biggest industrial company — the Nokia Group — believes that if the plans for EEC-wide banking become reality, it could mean huge orders for its financial systems.

More growth is expected for firms such as Nokia Data from upgrading existing customers'

computer equipment than getting new business. Similarly, an EEC standard for cellular telephones could help the company's mobile telephone business, which has about 14 per cent of the world market now. It has been one of the leaders in setting up a pan-European digital cellular network called GSM.

Nokia, with a £2.8 billion turnover, has been expanding fast and needs the EEC market more than ever. Unlike Austria, which is considering applying for EEC membership, Finland has said it could

never become a full member because of its geographical location and links with the neighbouring Soviet Union.

During 1988, sales for the Nokia Group rose by more than 60 per cent — largely due to buying into electronics which account for nearly two-thirds of its business.

But the acquisitions also caused a hefty dip in profits for last year, with net income down 40 per cent for the first eight months of 1988 — although the company is so far achieving its aim of becoming a European force in mobile

telephones, television sets and computing.

Nokia already has television manufacturing sites within the EEC and says it could switch to something like computer production in those factories if 1992 made it necessary. It is also looking at acquisitions or partnerships within the EEC.

Nokia is well ahead with technologies for the near future. It is already working on the next generation high definition television.

The company also produces low-radiation terminals designed to minimize electromagnetic radiation with an eye on the emphasis within Scandinavia on health and safety.

The Nokia group has been described as a rubber boot to hi-tech conglomerates, but its increasing emphasis on electronics means that it must overcome any restraints that the EEC's single European market puts on companies that operate outside its borders.

Matthew May

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PERSPECTIVE

Around the corner of this age of technology, there lurks a project so awe-inspiring that it puts all of the current debate about satellite TV entertainment directly into the category of trivia.

What is this Armageddon of the media? The magic word is Satafax. In a nutshell, it is possible, for example, to transmit the entire contents of a newspaper via a satellite channel and into a home receiver in a few seconds. But this is nothing new; it is an extension of the principles employed in the humble telephone line fax.

The phone line fax works on a line bandwidth of about 3,000Hz. This limits the rate at which data signals can be transmitted. The satellite channel bandwidth is around 20MHz. That's 6,666 times more than a fax. This means in crude terms that you can transmit data 6,666 times more rapidly. For example, in the 14 seconds it takes to fax a single A4 page down the telephone, you could fax the London telephone directory.

As newspaper and other printed media costs continue to rise, so electronic communication costs continue to fall. Alan Sugar, chairman of Amstrad, is well poised to marry the necessary technologies of fax, computer and satellite dish, to bring this about. Tomorrow, if we can stand the shock, it could be so most other electronic manufacturers.

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takes — generously — a minute to stuff a copy of a newspaper into your home satellite terminal/fax, what about the rest of the day? You guessed. The satellite also opens the opportunity for specialist publications to be distributed at negligible cost.

Obviously lucrative subscription services, such as City prices and travel agency updates, will be at the head of the queue.

Maybe if more people realize just what the potential really is, then some more thought will be applied to the direction of the technology.

And do not forget that the reader of the Satafax paper can be selective, using computer technology to search out just those items containing keywords that define the readers' interests, so that hardcopy can be requested and duly read on the train.

If indeed there is any need to go into work, since it should be possible to rent the couple of seconds on the satellite necessary for the big corporations to globally transmit a 100-page "overnight update" to employees.

This is the most significant event since the printing press. Arguably more significant, since the solar-powered fax in a mud hut in Senegal can deliver its occupants exactly the same information at exactly the same time as the dish on the Manhattan skyscraper.

William Poel

The author is managing director of Paperback Software.

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TECHNOLOGY

Working from home via a computer link can make business — and family — sense, Jane Lawrence writes

JOBSCE

Joyce Stace is a computer programmer. Yet she never has to leave her spare room. She is one of the increasing number of employees who choose teleworking, the process of working from home via a computer and a telephone line.

According to research firm Industrial Relations Services (IRS), there are between 3,000 and 5,000 teleworkers now in employment.

And figures from London-based Empirica UK, to be published later this year in a book *Telework: Towards The Elastic Office*, show that about a quarter of all British employees are interested in teleworking.

Empirica talked to around 4,000 employees at the end of 1986, and discovered that 23 per cent found the prospect attractive, while 32 per cent of those in jobs considered suitable for teleworking were interested.

In a separate survey 35 per cent of managers said they were interested in the possibilities which teleworking presented.

Empirica UK director Ursula Hughes says there can be problems in defining the principle of teleworking as opposed, say, to freelancing from home, but defines the process to three components — working from home, the use of technology and a commitment to a single employer.

Joyce Stace fulfils all three criteria. She works from her home in Amersham, Buckinghamshire, for computer company Honeywell Bull for 20 hours a week, writing programs on a terminal connected to a mainframe computer.

She has an eight-year-old son and was attracted to teleworking when she decided to return to employment. Its main benefit is flexibility. "I can do it when I want to do it," she says. That might mean in the evening — or even at weekends when the load on Honeywell's mainframe is reduced.

Initially it took some getting used to. "The first few weeks were quite hard work, but I learnt an awful lot," she says. But while she sometimes misses day-to-day contact with fellow programmers, and "picking up little tips", teleworking has lived up to her expectations. Stace is the ideal example of the sort of worker companies like



Running a home and a career side by side: Joyce Stace working at her office-linked computer in her spare bedroom — "I can do it when I want to do it"

The home front

Honeywell hope to attract. With an expected shortfall of graduates, as the number of school-leavers dips over the next few years, companies in the computer industry and other areas are falling over themselves to recruit and retain experienced staff.

Teleworking allows them to attract employees who would otherwise have remained outside the market. It basically appeals to two groups, says Hughes — those wanting to set up their own business, and those who have to tailor their working lives to domestic circumstances.

Many women, for example, blend teleworking with bringing up a family. But men are increasingly

attracted by the possibilities — IRS says 50 per cent of those applying to CPS, the teleworking arm of computer manufacturer ICL, are male.

Honeywell's personnel officer Jim Philip says the firm is delighted with the way its project is progressing. Those working from home are getting through work "at a tremendous rate" and providing quality output.

Honeywell has four workers on its books and is looking for a total of eight. All are treated as employees, and earn between £7 and £9 an hour, slightly more than if they were full-time because they are not paid for holidays or sickness.

Isolation can be a problem, but

Honeywell's employees keep in touch with the world via monthly site visits and contact with a full-time co-ordinator.

Teleworking, however, can have other disadvantages. Some point to the possibility of employers imposing teleworking in an effort to wriggle out of paying for expensive office space.

But more important, in the day-to-day running of a teleworking project, is the issue of remote management. Hampshire County Council, which has about 40 teleworkers, is handling the problem by running management training courses over the next 18 months.

microelectronics work, will appear in the March issue of *Electronics and Wireless World*.

At an international conference later this month, Anamatic, a Cambridge-based electronics company, will announce that it has used Cat's ideas to achieve so-called water-scale integration. It allows faulty components to be left on the thin slab, or "water", of silicon on which they are formed, greatly cutting manufacturing costs.

Robert Matthews

A British inventor has described a breakthrough in electronic technology that may lead to a new generation of supercomputers capable of carrying out a million million operations a second, at a fraction of the cost of today's machines.

Conventional supercomputers, widely used for such complex problems as weather prediction, solve problems by feeding in data bit by bit, and processing each part in turn. But the enormous number of

A first for UK

microprocessors and memory chips they need makes them very expensive.

Ivor Catt, an independent electronics consultant, has found a way in which cheaper, mass-produced components can be used to build such machines. Built from large "arrays" consisting of a million pro-

cessing units, computers could solve many problems simultaneously.

Catt says that calculation speeds a hundred times higher than today's fastest supercomputers could be possible on machines costing a few million pounds.

Details of the breakthrough, a development of his pioneering

When the chips are really down

European governments willing to offer subsidies to Japanese microchip firms setting up plants in Europe were criticized this week by Pasquale Pistoria, chairman of the French/Italian semiconductor maker SGS-Thomson Electronics. "It is a fundamental error and will hurt Europe," he said.

Last week Fujitsu was reported to be heading a new wave of Japanese investment with plans for a factory in north-east England that would put several semiconductor plants into Europe. Hitachi and Toshiba are expected to follow as they fear further restrictions on chips made outside the EEC after 1992. European manufacturers — which lag far behind Japan in making computer chips — fear any government assistance for Japanese plants will make their own products less competitive. Europe has less than 10 per cent of the world semiconductor market, compared with Japan's massive 42 per cent.

Compaq, the personal computer manufacturer, has announced an 88 per cent rise in profit for its final quarter compared with a year earlier. So spectacular has its previous growth been that US analysts described the results as showing growth was slowing. Sales increased 55 per cent for the quarter to \$667 million (£370 million).

Compaq is now mentioned along with IBM and Apple as one of the three big personal computer manufacturers. Founded in 1983, with sales of about £100 million after the first year trading, its growth has set new records in the US ending up with sales worth more than \$2 billion in 1988. Compaq's results have been spurred by ex-IBM customers unhappy with IBM's attempts to move to a new standard for personal computers with the PS/2 range.

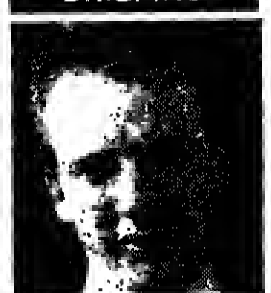
Solar-powered television sets parachuted into Third World villages are the latest brainchild of US religious broadcaster Pat Robertson. He intends to drop the television sets with pictorial instructions on how to set them up to receive satellite

broadcasts of his programmes. Displaying one of the little televisions at the National Religious Broadcasters conference in Washington last week — a magazine-sized contraption of styrofoam, cardboard and computer circuitry — he said: "Ten years from now, this will be \$1 or so per unit." Advances in technology and broadcasting are seen by religious broadcasters as providing new opportunities to spread their message.

But they can also cause embarrassment. Radio broadcaster Paul Rasey claimed that 80 per cent of the delegates at last year's NRB convention "watched an X-rated movie in their hotel rooms". The figure was compiled from the computerized hotel bills.

Hoeywell Bull has changed its name to Bull HN Information Systems although the company will continue to refer to itself in its logo and advertising material as Bull.

BRIEFING



By Matthew May

while the "N" stands for the 15 per cent interest of the Japanese firm NEC. Possible connotations of the new name have not been lost on copywriters who are already running a poster campaign with the phrase "To business problems we say Bull".

Robert Morris, the computer hacker who virtually shut down a huge data network in November, is the subject of a legal action in the US over what offence he should be charged with.

Some government prosecutors believe he should be charged only with a misdemeanour, while others in the US Justice Department want him charged more severely as a deterrent to anyone else.

Morris, a computer language expert, put an unauthorized virus program on a network run by the US Department of Defense. If charged with a felony, Morris could face up to 20 years in gaol compared with less than one year for a misdemeanour.

NEW TECHNOLOGY

Continued on next page

BRIDGING THE COMMUNICATIONS GAP



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GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

February 9, 1989

After a slack period in the early 1980s, the job market for planning graduates is once again buoyant. Property developers and major land owners, minerals operators, planning and property consultancies, pressure groups such as the House Builders Federation and the Council for the Preservation of Rural England, have all expanded their planning staffs in the late 1980s, typically turning trained staff from local authorities.

The demand is expected to continue strongly into the 1990s. As long as people care about the environment, and landowners and developers seek to alter it, planning work will be needed. It is, therefore, no surprise to find the planning profession increasingly aware of "demographics", or the potential shortage of young people joining the job market. Along with most other professions, planners are hoping that many more women as well as men will come forward into their work in the 1990s.

The Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI), the planners' professional body, has, however, been embarrassed to discover that in 1986, only 15 per cent of members were women, and that in the planning schools still only 30 per cent were women.

Vigorous efforts are now being made to find out why this is so.

Care for the environment is opening up new challenges, Patsy Healey reports

An exciting place for women in the planning of all our futures

Most planners would consider their profession to be "open" to all comers, just as they hope their approach to customers of the planning service and clients for planning work is broadly based and "people-friendly".

Hope and reality, of course, do not always match. Although the planning field continues to attract many lively young people interested in the varied challenges of a role in managing environmental change and with a strong commitment to improving the quality of our environment, many still have negative images of the profession.

Some are put off by the image of local government — bureaucratic, inflexible working practices, malodorous, lacking in opportunities for initiative. Others see the planning profession as dull and boring, mainly middle-aged and male. Nor is a career in "the public service" these days so attractive,

after a decade of "privatization" and criticism of local government. Although it is always possible to find people and offices which fit these caricatures, planning work — particularly in the areas which are expanding — is not like this at all. Take the graduate who has joined a team of consultants operating with one of the new urban development corporations working up approaches to regeneration.

Visiting sites, talking to local people and firms, working with her fellow team members to develop ideas and discuss what the corporation can realistically do, she will be using her skills in economic development and urban design, and her ability to understand different points of view. Or she could be the planning officer in a rural shire district, advising farmers on how their plans for diversification can be

matched with councillors' concerns about landscape quality and tourist pressures.

In the cities, a young planner might find herself face to face with a former colleague across the negotiating table, as she tries to persuade a development company to make a contribution to much-needed public infrastructure costs, or to achieve a higher quality of design, while her opposite number, remembering training negotiating practice, tries to assess the cost of these demands against the benefit to her company of being seen to be socially and environmentally sensitive.

A former colleague might be working in the community business field, helping young people, perhaps from ethnic minorities, to find a site and get planning permission for premises for a new enterprise. Another might be part of a local authority experiment in

breaking up their centralized bureaucratic bastions into neighbourhood offices, which are more sensitive to what local people really want.

These careers indicate that there has been a substantial change in the way planning work is done. In the 1970s, almost all planners expected to spend most of their working careers in local authorities. After a big expansion of local authority planning work, as a result of local government reorganization, there was a period of immobility, many people staying for 10 years in their first job. All this has now changed. "Privatization" and increasing popular interest in the environment means that developers, consultants and pressure groups now do much more planning work. Meanwhile, local government planners find themselves involved in a wider range of work, from economic development initiatives



to environmental impact assessment, and finding ways of reducing environmental hazards.

All this demands that planners should be people with initiative and imagination, able to connect environmental and design issues to economic and social ones, to consider alternatives and explore consequences.

Flexibility and sensitivity, those two qualities which women tend to be more aware of than their male colleagues, are at a premium in contemporary planning work. Women now have a much higher profile in the planning profession than they did, with many more of them in middle and senior management positions. There remain some prejudices which in the past made it difficult for women to get promotion or access to inwork training opportu-

nities and to return after a career break to have children.

However, the RTPI is committed to eliminating any prejudices that remain, and there is now much discussion about good practice with respect to employees with caring responsibilities. There are many examples of arrangements such as jobshares or other opportunities to work part-time, and local authorities and consultancies are adopting the principles of a managed career break.

By the 1990s, planning work practices will have adjusted to accommodate the needs of women colleagues. Any women with an interest in environmental issues and a sensitivity to people and their concerns, who want to work with initiative under potentially varied conditions, should give the planning field serious thought. Entry is either via an undergraduate degree (sometimes including a sandwich component), or a postgraduate degree, and most A levels and degree subjects are acceptable for entry. Further details of courses available may be obtained from the Royal Town Planning Institute, 26 Portland Place, London W1N 4BE (01-636-9107).

● Patsy Healey is professor and head of the department of town and country planning at Newcastle upon Tyne University, a member of council of the Royal Town Planning Institute, and chair of the institute's working party 1987-88 on women and planning.

APPOINTMENTS PHONE: 01-481 4481

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Danida, Department of International Development Cooperation, seeks a Project Adviser to be stationed in Morogoro in Tanzania. The position is subject to the approval by the concerned authorities. It will be a fixed term employment for two years with possibility of renewal.

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The Project Adviser will work closely with the Project Coordinator to advise on coordination and implementation of project activities such as establishment of the national and zonal centres, formulation of workplans and annual reports, establishment and protection of seed sources, coordination of seed collection and procurement, storage and seed testing, training and extension activities, seed documentation and implementation, liaison with institutions and agencies relevant to the project.

Qualifications

The Project Adviser shall be a graduate forester with a good practical background in forest management and project management. He should have proven experience in tree improvement and seed handling. Experience from working in East Africa would be an advantage.

Applications

The closing date is 1 March 1989. Application forms and further information can be obtained by phoning No. DK 192 09 85 or DK 192 09 87. Please state reference No.104.Tanz.159.d. when applying to

Danida

Department of International Development Cooperation
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GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

01-481 4481



Market Development Coordinator - USSR

The International Wool Secretariat (IWS) is a world-wide wool textile marketing organisation.

Its principal activities are international promotion of wool products at the consumer level, product development and technical services to manufacturing industry and quality control of Woolmark-labelled merchandise.

IWS is financed by wool producers in the S. Hemisphere. It has offices in over 30 countries, including Eastern Europe.

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Applications with a CV and the names of three referees should be sent to Julie Tucknott, Cancer Research Campaign, 2 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AR, tel: 01-930 8972 from whom further information is also available. Closing date: 13th March 1989.



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GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

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You will start up and manage our financial accounting services, key areas of which will include monthly management/financial accounting, internal control procedures, fixed assets and treasury items.

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Get in touch with your future - send your brief cv quoting Job Title to Annette Kennedy at Motorola Ltd, Communications Division, Jays Close, Viables Industrial Estate, Basingstoke, Hants. RG22 4PD. Or call her during normal office hours on (0256) 484201.



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Applications are invited for the post of Deputy Secretary to the Territorial Auxiliary and Volunteer Reserve Association for Wales. The post will become vacant on the 10th April 1989 and the successful applicant will be required to undergo the present Deputy Secretary for 2 weeks before taking over.

Applicants should preferably have service staff experience of at least Grade 1 level and under the age of 50 years. The present yearly salary is £11,054 rising by 5 annual increments to £14,259. There is a contributory pension scheme in operation. The salary scales will be adjusted from time to time in accordance with any increases in Civil Service scales of pay. The successful candidate will be required to serve at the associations main office in Cardiff and reside within reasonable travelling time of his place of work.

Application forms together with job description may be obtained from The Secretary, Wales TAVRA, Centre Block, Maindy Barracks, Cardiff CF4 3YE.

Completed forms must reach the above address by first post 28th February 1989.

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The salary for the post is £21,575 per annum. Membership of the Universities Superannuation Scheme is available and assistance would be provided with removal expenses.

Applicants should send a Curriculum Vitae with details of age, qualifications, experience, and the names and addresses of three referees to the Director of Estate Management, 74 Trumpington Street, Cambridge CB2 1RW, to arrive not later than Monday 20 March 1989.

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Your role will be to support the senior accountants in recording and analysing a broad range of financial products. This involves preparation of reports for stock holder reporting and external regulatory authorities.

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£25-40,000 package

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For further information telephone Laurence Smith, Managing Director, on 01-629 4463 (or after 5.00pm 0580 271562). Alternatively, send a comprehensive career history to the address below. Your enquiry will naturally be treated in the strictest confidence.

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Applications are invited for the post of Assistant Finance Officer in charge of the Expenditure section of the Finance Office. A professional qualification or appropriate honours degree would be an advantage. The successful applicant will be responsible for the maintenance of computerised purchase and nominal ledger records, monthly reports to academic and related departments on teaching and equipment budgets, Value Added Tax returns, bank reconciliations and financial reports to committees.

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Application forms and details of further particulars may be obtained from The Personnel Office, Senate House, The University of Warwick, Coventry CV4 7AL. (0203 523627) quoting Ref No 27/B/88 (please mark clearly on envelope). Closing date for applications 3 March 1989.

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Fenwicke
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01-481 4481

BANKING & ACCOUNTANCY

01-481 4481

*Recently Qualified Accountant***DEVELOPMENT
FINANCE**

CDC is a statutory body charged with the task of assisting overseas countries in the development of their economies. This involves investigating, formulating and carrying out projects for the promotion or expansion of new or existing enterprises within a wide variety of businesses including agriculture, fisheries, minerals, industry, public utilities, transport, communications, housing and hotels. Operating in over 40 countries with 18 offices overseas and one in London, our investments and commitments, financed both from Government loans and self generated funds, exceed £1 billion.

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c.£30,000 + Car

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Applicants should be high calibre qualified accountants, with business flair, well developed management skills and a track record of achievement in a commercial environment. Probably aged 30-38 they should be ambitious, flexible and committed to the introduction of successful change.

Please write in confidence, giving concise career, personal and salary details to our advisor, Paul Carrasco, quoting Ref: L359 at Egor Executive Selection, 58 St. James's Street, London SW1A 1LD (01-629 8070).



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You should be a qualified accountant with a minimum of two years post qualification experience and should be used to working to tight reporting deadlines.

Please apply in writing enclosing a full C.V. to:

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Court of Appeal

Educational trust not registrable for VAT despite profit

Totality of injury direction correct

Bell Concord Educational Trust Ltd v Customs and Excise Commissioners
Before Sir Nicolas Browne-Wilkinson, Vice-Chancellor, Lord Justice Woolf and Lord Justice Staughton
[Judgment February 3]

Where a company budgeted for and achieved a surplus of income over expenditure for the purpose of applying all of the surplus for educational, charitable purposes, the company was not registrable for value added tax.

The Court of Appeal, in a reserved judgment, allowed an appeal by Bell Concord Educational Trust Ltd from a decision of Mr Justice Taylor who had allowed an appeal by the Customs and Excise Commissioners from a decision of the Manchester VAT Tribunal, which had held that the company was not registrable for VAT.

Mr Frederic Reynolds, QC and Mr Roderick Cordara for the company; Mr Guy Sankey for the commissioners.

THE VICE-CHANCELLOR said that the company limited by guarantee and a registered charity, its objects were to promote the advancement of education and to carry on, acquire and develop boarding or day schools.

Its memorandum and articles, expressly provided that its income and property were to be applied solely towards the promotion of its objects and that no portion thereof should be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividend, bonus or otherwise by way of profit to its members.

The company acquired and carried on as its only activity an educational establishment known as Concord College.

Whether or not the company was registrable for VAT depended upon whether the services it supplied were exempted under section 17(1) of the Value Added Tax Act 1983.

Under that section a supply of services was exempt if it was of a description for the time being specified in Schedule 6 to the Act. Item 2 of Group 6 of the Schedule was "The provision, otherwise than for profit, of (a) education or research of a kind provided by a school or university...".

The sole question was whether the provision of education by the company was or had been "otherwise than for profit" within the meaning of Group 6 of Schedule 6.

The VAT tribunal found as facts that in fixing the fees payable for its courses the company budgeted for, and achieved, a substantial surplus of income over expenditure; its purpose was to maintain and improve the quality of the facilities offered to students by increasing the number of teachers and by improving and adding to the buildings; and intended, when such purposes had been achieved, to reduce its fees in real terms and, if possible, to establish scholarships for gifted children in need.

In the year ending August 31, 1984 the surplus was nearly £216,000 and in the following year it was over £232,000, representing in each case a little over a fifth of the company's total turnover. The company intended for the next two years at least to continue to budget for surpluses of that order.

The question, therefore, was whether the fact that the company was budgeting to make a surplus each year with a view to applying such accumulated surpluses in the future for its charitable purposes meant that at the relevant time it was not providing its educational services "otherwise than for profit".

The judge construed the 1983 Act to the light of the Sixth Council Directive (77/388/EEC) and on that basis held that the exemption did not apply where, for the time being, an organization was aiming to make a surplus or profit on current account.

Under the Act VAT was chargeable on the supply of goods and services section 17 exempted supplies of a description specified in Schedule 6. Applying the conventional approach, therefore, one would have to look at each provision of services by the company and ask if "Was such supply otherwise than for profit?" That would mean that the company and the commissioners did not contend for that view.

It was common ground that one had to look at the organization providing the services to discover whether such services were provided otherwise than for profit. It was also common ground that the answer to that question lay to the purpose, intention or motive of the company. There were two possible views:

(a) That, notwithstanding that the surplus would never be applied otherwise than for the educational charitable purposes of the company, so long as the company was pursuing a policy of making a surplus on the provision of educational services, those services were being provided for profit.

(b) That since the company's intention and focused on the policy for the time being pursued by the organization, irrespective of the objects for which the company was established, the surplus could never be applied to the profit of any individual but had to be applied for the educational charitable purposes of the company, the services were being provided otherwise than for profit.

That was the company's contention which focused on the objects for which the organization was established, irrespective of its budgeting policy from time to time.

To his Lordship's judgment, the phrase "otherwise than for profit" was ambiguous and was capable of bearing either of the meanings contended for.

Apart from the Directive, his Lordship would construe the phrase in the sense contended for by the company. There was nothing in the context which threw any light on the meaning of the words and the reasons for favouring the company's contention were primarily practical.

If the phrase "otherwise than for profit" required one to look at the constitution of the organization to discover the purposes for which it was established, there was a clear and unambiguous test as to whether the supply was made for profit. If the commissioners' test was correct the consequences would be formidable.

If the phrase implied that a charitable organization could carry on a business for "profit" the question at once arose as to what was meant by "profit". In relation to what period did one assess the profit? How often did one have to ask the question: "Is the organization providing its services otherwise than for profit?"

Parliament was far more likely to have considered that the phrase meant bodies which were non-profit making bodies in the ordinary sense of the word rather than bodies which, from time to time, aimed to make a surplus on revenue.

The complexity of administration of the tax for educational charities would become so complex on any other view that, apart from any guidance from the Directive, his Lordship would reject the commissioners' construction.

Was the position altered by the Sixth Council Directive which, on binding on the United Kingdom as to the result to be achieved?

Pursuant to that Treaty obligation, the Value Added Tax (Education) Order (SI 1977 No 1787), was made substituting a new Group 6 of Schedule 6 to the Finance Act 1972, which was the Act then regulating VAT. Group 6 as enacted by the 1977 Order was in the same terms as Group 6 of Schedule 6 to the 1983 Act, which was a consolidating Act.

If there was an ambiguity to the domestic legislation on VAT, it was permissible and necessary to seek to construe the Directive. The Directive, his Lordship said, so as to produce compliance by the UK with its Treaty obligations by making the UK provisions accord with, so far as possible, provisions of the Directive.

Cambridge v British Rail Engineering Ltd (1983) 2 AC 751, 771.

The English text of article 13(1) of the Directive imposed a mandatory duty on member states to exempt from VAT "the education of children or young persons, education, school or university education... including the supply of services and of goods closely related thereto".

Article 13(2), however, gave member states a limited right to impose conditions on such exemptions: "Member states may, make the granting... of each exemption... subject in each individual case to one or more of the following conditions:— they shall not systematically aim to make a profit, but any profits over and above the costs shall not be distributed, but shall be assigned to the maintenance or improvement of the services supplied...".

Under the Directive, the company having educational purposes was entitled to mandatory exemption under article 13(2) but the UK legislature was entitled to refuse such relief unless the company was an organization which did not "systematically aim to make a profit but any profits over and above the costs shall not be distributed, but shall be assigned to the maintenance or improvement of the services supplied...".

In his Lordship's judgment, it was legitimate to construe the English text, which was capable of bearing that meaning, in that sense also.

Accordingly, his Lordship reached the view that, to the extent that the Directive assisted in the construction of the 1983 Act it pointed in favour of the view that he would to any event prefer, namely that the words "otherwise than for profit" referred to the objects for which an organization was established and not to the budgeting policy being pursued for the time being by the organization in question.

His Lordship would therefore allow the appeal and restore the decision of the tribunal.

LORD JUSTICE WOOLF, concurring, said that he agreed with the Vice-Chancellor, subject to two points which it was not necessary to decide for the purposes of the present appeal and on which he would prefer to express no concluded view although he regarded it as important to draw attention to them since otherwise their Lordships' decision could be considered to have wider application than he would wish.

The first point was whether item 2 could only apply to a supply by a charity or other body whose constitution prevented it from being conducted with a view to profit.

His Lordship would regard it as open to argument whether the terms of item 2 were confined to bodies whose powers were limited as to prevent their activities resulting in personal profit.

It was arguable that an individual could be treated as making supplies otherwise than for profit if, but only if, he could establish that any difference between the price charged and the gross cost of a supply or supplies was intended to be used broadly for the purposes identified in item 2.

The second point was as to the position of a charity which carried on educational activities which were within item 2 and other non-educational charitable activities.

Would supplies still fall within item 2 if "profits" which resulted from making educational supplies were intended to be used to subsidise the other non-educational activities of the charity?

Again, his Lordship regarded it as being at least arguable that if the proceeds of the provision of supplies which otherwise fell within item 2 were to be used for non-educational purposes the provision would not be otherwise than for profit and therefore within item 2.

Finally, his Lordship should indicate that he was far from satisfied that any issue as to the interpretation of item 2 which he had identified could result in a conflict between item 2 and the requirements of the French or English version of the Directive.

LORD JUSTICE STAUGHTON, concurring, said that looking at the 1983 Act on its own the words "otherwise than for profit" in item 2 referred to the motive of the supplier.

If he effected the supply with the motive of making a profit, the supply was not exempt; if his motive was the advancement of education but a surplus of income over expenditure nevertheless resulted, it was exempt.

Even if that was not the only possible construction, it was plainly one that the statute was capable of bearing. Could reference then be made to the Directive to resolve the ambiguity? It was conceded that a taxpayer could rely directly on a Council Directive, whether or not the commissioners could do so.

If reference was made only to the English text of the Directive, his Lordship would be inclined to agree with Mr Justice Taylor that a company which deliberately planned to make a large surplus, whether or not for the benefit of its members, would be infringing a condition that it should not "systematically aim to make a profit".

But when one turned to the French text it was plain, for the reasons given by the Vice-Chancellor, that the words "otherwise than for profit" were a condition authorized by the Directive, because they referred to the activities of an organization with an objective other than profit, which retained any profits incidentally made within its business.

Solicitors: Mr H. H. Mainprize; Solicitor, Customs and Excise.

Transfer of trade

Justice May, Lord Justice Neill and Lord Justice Ralph Gibson so stated on February 7, dismissing an appeal from the Employment Appeal Tribunal which had upheld the industrial tribunal's finding that there had been a transfer of such a business or undertaking.

LORD JUSTICE MAY said that if an industrial tribunal correctly directing itself in law and weighing up all the relevant facts decided that there had been a transfer of a business, that conclusion was binding provided there was evidence to support it.

It was arguable that an individual could be treated as making supplies otherwise than for profit if, but only if, he could establish that any difference between the price charged and the gross cost of a supply or supplies was intended to be used broadly for the purposes identified in item 2.

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Regina v Grundy
Before Lord Justice O'Connor, Mr Justice Caulefield and Mr Justice Eastham
[Reasons February 3]

Where two other men had assaulted a police officer before the arrival of the appellant, it was not a defence on a charge of jointly inflicting grievous bodily harm that the only injury sustained capable by itself of amounting to grievous bodily harm, a broken nose, could have been caused prior to the arrival of the appellant when he was not acting in furtherance of any common design.

The trial judge had been correct in his direction on joint enterprise that the totality of the injury suffered could amount to grievous bodily harm.

The Court of Appeal so held in giving reasons for the dismissal of an appeal by Brian Grundy on January 24, against his conviction on April 15, 1988 by the Bolton Crown Court (Judge Lever, QC and a jury) on one count of causing grievous bodily harm with intent on which he had been sentenced to four years imprisonment.

Appeals by Brian Gerard and John Patterson against conviction for the same offence, on which they had been sentenced three years six months and four years imprisonment respectively had also been dismissed.

Mr Stuart Denney, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant; Mr Raymond Wigglesworth for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE O'CONNOR, giving the judgment of the court, said that at 2.15 am on September 27, 1986, in Bank Street, Bolton, PC Oates entered a club in pursuit of an alleged drunken driver.

According to the prosecution case his way was barred by Patterson who punched him several times about the face and body. He was then grabbed from behind by Gerard who pinned his arms while Patterson continued to punch him. Shortly afterwards, Grundy arrived and joined in the attack finally head-butting the officer.

A medical examination showed a broken nose, chipped bottom teeth and other injuries. The officer could not say on oath that his nose had been broken.

On behalf of Grundy it was submitted that:

(i) the only injury that could amount to grievous bodily harm was the broken nose;

(ii) that Grundy could not be convicted of causing grievous bodily harm unless the jury was sure that the nose had been broken by a blow struck by Grundy or by a blow struck by someone else while Grundy was participating in the fight;

(iii) that the appellants were not acting in concert in furtherance of any pre-arranged plan to attack PC Oates;

LORD JUSTICE CAULEFIELD, concurring, said that the judge's statement that the totality of the injuries caused by the appellants amounted to grievous bodily harm was one of the ugliest because it involved what one food so often, attempted murder of the soul and the appellant had set out to do just that to the victim.

His Lordship added that blackmail was indeed one of the most vicious crimes in the calendar of criminal offences. Perhaps because courts always imposed severe sentences for such a crime one so seldom found a person convicted for the second time of blackmail. Deterrence was, perhaps, the most important part of the sentence in such a case.

LORD JUSTICE EASTHAM, concurring, said that the judge's statement that the totality of the injuries caused by the appellants amounted to grievous bodily harm was one of the ugliest because it involved what one food so often, attempted murder of the soul and the appellant had set out to do just that to the victim.

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Deterrance in blackmail sentencing

Regina v Hadjoo
Deterrence was perhaps the most important part of the sentence for blackmail, Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, said on January 20 when, sitting with Mr Justice Rose and Mr Justice Pill, he gave the judgment of the Court of Appeal dismissing an appeal against a four-year sentence passed at the Central Criminal Court by Judge Pownall on the conviction of George Hadjoo, aged 26, on a count of blackmail contrary to section 21 of the Theft Act 1968.

The LORD CHIEF JUSTICE said that their Lordships agreed with the sentencing judge's statement that the totality of the criminal offences blackmail was one of the ugliest because it involved what one food so often, attempted murder of the soul and the appellant had set out to do just that to the victim.

His Lordship added that blackmail was indeed one of the most vicious crimes in the calendar of criminal offences. Perhaps because courts always imposed severe sentences for such a crime one so seldom found a person convicted for the second time of blackmail. Deterrence was, perhaps, the most important part of the sentence in such a case.

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For fast expanding company in wide-based education. Good WP skills. 4 months exp. reqd. min. 21 yrs. Pleasant telephone manner. Would suit lively, well-motivated female person with min. of 2-3 yrs exp. and experience. Salary £10,000 neg.

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